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Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-193 *5 October 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli-PLO Talks on Election Issues Continue

Differences Reported

JN0410144994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian-Israeli talks, basically dealing with the issues of legislative elections in various Palestinian territories, prisoners and detainees, and the crossings, will resume in Cairo today.

Informed Palestinian sources said there are Palestinian-Israeli differences on the powers and number of members of the elected council. The Palestinian side wants this council to enjoy legislative and executive powers and to comprise 100 members. The Israeli side, meanwhile, wants this council to have only executive powers and consist only of 25 members. Egypt, which is playing an intermediary role, proposed having 65 members.

Israeli Sources on Talks

NC0410112894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Oct (MENA)—The Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on the legislative elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip resumed this morning. The Palestinian delegation is led by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, the self-rule minister in the Palestinian National Authority, and the Israeli side by General Dani Rothschild, general coordinator of occupied territories affairs. MENA has learned from diplomatic sources in the Israeli delegation that during the negotiations yesterday the two delegations thoroughly examined all the topics and differences between the two sides regarding the elections. The Israeli party explained to the Palestinian side that the elections and agreement on holding them will take place in cooperation between the Palestinian and Israeli parties, not by one party.

Responding to a remark by the Palestinian party that it presented an integrated plan on the elections to the Israeli side during the negotiations at the Erez crossing point on the border with Gaza in August, the sources said the Israeli party has not received the draft election plan from the Palestinian side. They stressed that the Palestinian party handed over an unofficial working paper, whereas the election plan has not been presented by the Palestinian delegation. The same sources pointed out that the population survey must take place in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in view of the demographic changes that have occurred within the Palestinian population since 1964, the date of the last population survey in these areas. Then, the West Bank was under Jordanian administration and the Gaza Strip was under Egyptian administration.

These sources noted that Israel is currently conducting a new population survey to correct the data stored in the computer, data that are now inaccurate. The same sources said that agreement was reached with the Palestinian party to expedite a survey of the Palestinian population. They noted that agreement was also reached on the participation of a consultative Palestinian team in the process, which will take place in accordance with the (?data) available to the Israeli side, because the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have been under Israeli military administration since the June 1967 war.

Regarding the Israeli response to the elections, these sources said that Israel submitted its reply to the Palestinian paper presented at the talks at the Erez crossing point in August, stressing that Israel has an interest in participating in the elections.

Regarding the Palestinian demand that the Israeli forces redeploy completely in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip before holding the elections, these sources said that the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles signed in Oslo and Washington in September 1993 provides that the Israeli forces redeploy in the populated areas to enable them to hold the elections. This phase will be followed by a second phase to redeploy these forces in accordance with an agreement that will be worked out for the West Bank.

On the representation of Jerusalem in the legislative council, the sources said that according to the Declaration of Principles, the population of Jerusalem can participate as voters but not as candidates in the elections. They noted that Jerusalem is not an election constituency until this issue is negotiated after two years have passed, in accordance with the Declaration of Principles.

'Asfur on Powers of Elected Body

JN0410180894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Oct 94

[Report by Sa'id Mu'addi from the "With the Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1600 today, the Israeli and Palestinian delegations resumed talks [in Cairo] on the question of elections in the territories. The basic issue being discussed by the two sides is the nature of the body that will be elected by the Palestinians. At the session which was held this morning, the two sides exchanged views on the concept of elections and the powers of the elected body. Hasan 'Asfur, member of the Palestinian delegation says:

[Begin recording] ['Asfur] During today's meeting, we continued discussions on issues that have been previously raised. However, the focus of today's discussions was the body that will be elected. The Palestinian side emphasized that it is committed to the Declaration of Principles [DOP]—the Oslo agreement—regarding the election of a council enjoying legislative and executive powers. The number of the members of the elected council must be in line with those two basic tasks. In other words, there are executive and legislative duties. Therefore, we asked that the number of members on this council be 100 so that they can carry out their tasks. We distinguish between executive and legislative tasks. This is because it has been clearly stated [by the DOP] that the council should have executive and legislative powers. Therefore, we should distinguish

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between these two issues. The Israeli side also underlined its commitment by the clauses of the DOP. They noted that they will view with understanding the Palestinian request regarding the number of the council members.

[Mu'addi] So, it can be said there is an agreement in principle regarding the body that will be elected?

['Asfur] Practically, we have agreed about the elected body since the DOP. The DOP is clear and explicit in this regard. We do not want to invent anything new. Nor do we want to stir a new controversy about this issue. The basic issue is the number of the council members. We are raising this issue proceeding from our understanding of the tasks of this council.

[Mu'addi] Has the question of the redeployment of the Israeli Defense Force in the West Bank in preparation for holding elections in this territory been raised?

['Asfur] I believe that this question will be discussed as a separate issue. It is not among our current tasks. Our current discussions are dealing with issues related to the elections. The question of redeployment will be taken up as a separate issue. However, we believe that this issue must precede the elections.

[Mu'addi] Hasan 'Asfur from Cairo, thank you very much.

['Asfur] Thank you.

Rothschild Rejects PLO Stance

TA0410175794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chief Israeli negotiator in the Cairo talks on Palestinian elections said today that the PLO's position runs contrary to the Oslo agreement on self rule. General Dani Rothschild told Qol Yisra'el from Cairo that, in effect, the PLO wants two councils, one executive and the other legislative. He said that the Declaration of Principles provided for one elected council only and Israel would hold to that view.

Other outstanding problems concern the timetable of withdrawal of Israeli troops from the cities and the participation of Palestinians living in East Jerusalem. The Palestinians are demanding that the elections be held before the end of the year. General Rothschild said earlier that the timing of any balloting would have to be determined by negotiation. It could not be a unilateral decision by the Palestinian Authority, he said. The head of the Palestinian team, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, has warned that the issue of elections could make or break the peace process.

[A similar report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 4 October adds that "at today's talks, there appeared to have been a moderation of the Palestinian position in light of Israel's adamant opposition to the election of two councils to manage the autonomy. Hasan 'Asfur, a member of the Palestinian delegation, said in Cairo that the Palestinians would respect all the understandings reached in Oslo, or in other words, elect one body with both legislative and executive powers." The report also notes "that another issue that remains unresolved is the participation in the elections of radical and Islamic elements that oppose the Oslo agreement. The Palestinians insisted that all political factions in the territories be permitted to take part in the elections. Israel rejects this demand and claims that it makes no sense to allow the opponents of the peace process to enjoy its fruits."]

Hamas Allowed To Participate in Poll

TA0510094394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Oct 94 p A3

["Exclusive" report by Gay Bekhor in Cairo]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The second day of talks on the expected elections in territories, held in Cairo between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations, was marked with a series of surprising mutual concessions which allowed solving several essential problems. At the same time, several obstacles have still remained unsolved.

The first round of the Cairo talks is expected to end today and will apparently resume next week. The most interesting change of stand was made yesterday when Major General Dani Rothschild, head of the Israeli delegation, said that Israel would be willing to allow Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to take part in the elections, including the right to be elected, provided that the organization, any individual, or movement which have so far opposed the Oslo agreement declare their acceptance of three conditions: first—accepting the Oslo agreement; second—pledging not to call for the destruction of the State of Israeli; and third—that the movement's platform is not racist.

Under the above conditions, Israel will be willing to approve the participation in the elections of an organization or movement, "even if until this day the individual is a known as a veteran Hamas member," as an Israeli delegate put it. The movement will have to make a pledge in this spirit upon submitting its candidacy. The Palestinians promised to provide a response to this, which will apparently be given only next week following consultations with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

'Urayqat on Opposition Participation

NC0510071994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian and Israeli delegations will today conclude a round of negotiations they started in Cairo on Monday. Chief Palestinian negotiator Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat said the Israelis still reject the participation of the opponents of the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreements in the upcoming elections, while the Palestinians are sticking to the right of all political movements to participate.

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'Secret' Contacts Said Made for Arab-Israeli Summit

JN0410154494 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 3 Oct 94 pp 1, 11

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJD has learned that secret contacts and arrangements are being made under U.S. auspices to hold a quadripartite summit for the leaders of Jordan, Egypt, the self-rule area, and Israel in Jerusalem before the end of this year.

Informed sources told AL-MAJD that the U.S. Administration hopes through this summit to give a fresh, qualitative impetus to reconciliation and normalization between these Arab parties and Israel. This push will also overcome the remaining psychological barriers and obstacles and boost cooperation and collective openness among these four parties.

The sources said that the U.S. Administration is pressuring Jordan into moving ahead of other Arab negotiators to sign a peace treaty with Israel before regaining its legitimate rights, in return for a few minor, insignificant gains. The signing of this treaty will be announced within the next few weeks.

Israel is expected to shortly announce a limited withdrawal from the Jordanian lands it occupied in 1968 to pave the way for the signing of the treaty and to prepare the Jordanian public for this development.

The sources said Israel refuses to negotiate occupied Jordanian lands in Gharandal, in Wadi al-'Arabah, north of the site where the tent talks were held. Israel, instead, is proposing either a 99-year lease or ownership of the land in return for relinquishing plots of land near Amman it claims to have bought. The reason is that the Gharandal area is rich in underground water. Moreover, Israel refuses to negotiate 830 donums of north Jordanian land occupied in 1948. This area controls the estuaries of the al-Yarmuk and Jordan rivers. It is, indeed, a farm and a gateway that controls the flow of water in the East Ghor Canal. In addition, it is quite difficult to demarcate borders in the Dead Sea because, according to Israeli logic, water levels are not steady. [sentence as published] This issue, however, may be considered after building the Red-Dead sea canal. Border demarcation is contingent on the signing of a security treaty that includes operating joint patrols to control borders and prevent infiltration into Israel, and changing military posts in border areas in conformity with peace.

Israeli sources said that differences between the two sides will remain deep-seated on water sharing, border demarcation, and occupied territory. The sources disclosed that Israeli Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq secretly visited Amman a few days ago. They confirmed that Israel has signed a security agreement with Jordan despite the Jordanian negotiator's denial.

The sources said that the issue of sharing water according to set quotas will be solved only after conducting a search for new water resources that would meet the needs of the two parties. They hinted that agreement was recently reached on a seawater desalination project to secure the two sides' water needs.

The sources said that Prince Hasan's visit to Washington is very important due to the significance of talks that will be held with President Clinton, Warren Christopher, and Shim'on Peres. They expected the trilateral meeting in Washington, set for today [Monday], to produce a timetable for signing the peace treaty. The conferees will also tackle economic issues that will be broached in Casablanca's economic conference, in addition to the peace projects proposed on trilateral and regional levels and the aid and grants the World Bank and IMF can extend to Jordan to fund projects after a final peace agreement between Jordan and Israel has been signed.

Jordan, Israel Said To Agree on Dam Construction

JN0510085094 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 5 Oct 94 pp 1, 15

[Report by 'Abd-al-Rahman Husayn in Washington]

[FBIS Translated Text] In order to expedite a just agreement on water sharing between Jordan and Israel, it has agreed to construct two dams in the northern area with costs estimated at $35 million.

The two dams will collect water that normally goes unused, and then pump it into the Jordan River. Reports said the cost may reach $100 million and that the U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation will cofinance the project.

According to information leaked on this agreement between Jordan and Israel, the additional water that will be pumped into the Jordan River from the two dams is estimated at 50 million cubic meters, in addition to quantities of water treated in Israeli stations that will also be pumped.

Sources said these two new dams are a realization of the optimism that has been seen over the past few days about a near agreement on the subject of water between Jordan and Israel.

Jordanian, Israeli Central Bank Governors Meet

JN0510093894 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 5 Oct 94 pp 1, 15

[FBIS Translated Text] Madrid—On the sidelines of the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, met with Ya'aqov Frenkel, governor of Bank of Israel.

At this meeting, which is the first of its kind between the two governors, Frenkel was quoted as saying that Dr. Nabulsi proposed an increase in the number of branches of Jordanian banks in the West Bank.

It is worth noting that several meetings were held between representatives of the two central banks within the framework of subcommittees of Madrid conference.

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An agreement had been reached between the two Central Banks on economic and banking issues.

Israel Requests Dropping of Nuclear Waste Issue

TA0310202294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Oct 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel has appealed to Bahrain with a request that the issue of nuclear refuse not be dealt with in the course of the ecological discussions that will take place there this month. The advance Israeli delegation returned from Bahrain this morning, after having also toured the Bahrain-Saudi Arabia border. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has learned that Israel adopted this step because Egypt is continuing to pressure Israel to allow supervision of its nuclear refuse as a way of getting at the nuclear facilities. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry official in charge of this area came to Israel about a month ago and held discussions with senior Jerusalem officials on this issue.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Sources Criticize 'Normalization'

JN0310183394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—Arab League sources have criticized the hasty moves some Arab states have made to expedite the normalization of ties with Israel before progress is made on the Middle East peace talks tracks, particularly the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

This criticism has come in the aftermath of the joint statement issued by Tunisia and Israel on their decision to open economic interests offices in Tel Aviv and Tunis respectively, and the dispatch of an Israeli ambassador to Morocco to head an Israeli liaison office in Rabat.

These sources added that Israel will view these normalization moves as a green light to obstruct the talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. They went on to say that Israel will use these measures to create a gap between the positions of the Arab sides involved in the peace negotiations and beleaguer the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of negotiations, particularly the Syrian track.

These sources regretted the measures hastily adopted by some Arab states in this regard, asserting that such measures should have been adopted only after tangible, real, and clear progress is made on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. The sources added: These measures will only feed Israel's intransigence and its evasion of international legitimacy resolutions.

The sources went on to say: The clear announcement by the six Gulf Cooperation Council members that they are revoking the indirect boycott of Israel will also boost Israel's intransigence, procrastination, and evasion. All these normalization measures could torpedo the entire Middle East peace process, especially since Israel will not feel, from now on, any real pressures from the Arab side, which has rights that need to be restored.

The sources continued: What is required of the Arab side at this point in time is to achieve the minimum inter-Arab coordination required to confront this observable Israeli intransigence.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Foreign Ministers Issue Final Communique

LD0410223894 Tehran IRNA in English 2039 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, Oct. 4, IRNA—The Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) [Islamic Conference Organization, ICO] at the end of its annual coordination meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs issued its final communique here on Monday 3 October 1994.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali and it heard the important message of Abdou Diouf, president of the Republic of Senegal and chairman of the Sixth Islamic, summit conveyed by Moustapha Niasse, minister of state, minister of foreign affairs and overseas of Senegalese.

The meeting reaffirmed the necessity of dismantling the settlements established in occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including the Holy Qods and occupied Syrian Golan, as they are illegal, in accordance with international resolutions notably security Council Resolution 465 and of providing international guarantees.

Regarding the Bosnian issue, the meeting endorsed the recommendations contained in the report of the OIC contact group on Bosnia-Herzegovina and reaffirmed all previous OIC declarations and resolutions on the issue.

The meeting expressed its grave concern over the deteriorating situation in Bosnia and strongly condemned the Serb rejection of the peace plan, resurgence of Serb sponsored violence, intensification of ethnic cleansing and renewed strangulation of Sarajevo as well as attacks against UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force].

It noted with consternation the adoption of Security Council Resolution 943 (1994) regarding the easing of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and considered this as unjustified, untimely and not conducive to efforts for promoting a just peace in Bosnia.

The meeting called for the suspension of the implementation of Resolution 943 and the adoption of adequate and effective steps to interdict the continuing flow of military supplies to the Bosnian Serbs from Serbia and Montenegro.

It welcomed the offer made by Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic in a statement before the General Assembly on September 27, 1994, for an immediate dejure lifting the

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arms embargo imposed upon the government of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina by the Security Council.

Regarding the Kashmiri problem, the meeting condemned the continuing massive violations of human rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and called upon the government of India to respect their human rights including the right of self-determination.

It urged the international community to take all necessary steps to persuade India to cease forthwith its repression in Kashmir and to enable the people of Jammu and Kashmir to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination, in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions.

The meeting expressed its grave concern over the continuation of conflicts in Afghanistan and called for the cessation of all armed hostilities. It emphasized the need for evolving a new political consensus among all Afghan parties and in this context commended the efforts being made by the OIC secretary general for the promoting peace in Afghanistan.

It appealed to the international community to respond to the humanitarian exigencies of the situation in Afghanistan and to provide assistance for the Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran. It also called for the speedy repatriation and rehabilitation of Afghan refugees. It also urged the international community particularly member states to contribute towards the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Regarding peace and national reconciliation in Somalia, the meeting reaffirmed its commitment to the promotion of peace and national reconciliation in Somalia and urged all Somali political factions and movements to abide by the Addis Ababa peace accords.

The meeting strongly condemned the Armenian aggression against the Azerbaijan Republic and demanded the immediate, unconditional and complete withdrawal of Armenian forces from all occupied Azeri territories. It called upon Armenia to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijan Republic.

The meeting also supported the ongoing efforts of the United Nations for restoring peace in Tajikistan and expressed the hope that the third round of negotiations to be held in Islamabad on this subject will lead to substantial progress. It reiterated the readiness of the OIC to contribute to these efforts for peace in Tajikistan.

Regarding Muslim immigrants in Europe, the meeting expressed its deep concern over certain recent instances of discrimination and acts of violence against Muslim immigrants in Europe, constituting violation of their human rights including but not limited to the breach of their freedom of religious and cultural practices.

It requested the secretary general to take necessary measures to ensure protection of fundamental rights of Muslim immigrants living in Europe, as well as to preserve their identity and Islamic heritage and to seek solutions to the problems facing these immigrants.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 30 Sep

NC0410115194

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 30 September issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. Antiveil Campaign Continues; Islamic Group Gives Warning
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ANTIVEIL CAMPAIGN CONTINUES; ISLAMIC GROUP GIVES WARNING

A 200-word unattributed report on page 1 says tension has escalated between the administrations of al-Jizah Governorate schools and parents of female students over head scarves. The report says al-Jizah Education Department instructed girls' schools to bar the entry of elementary pupils wearing head scarves and to obtain parental consent for intermediate and high school students to wear the veil. The report cites "outraged" parents as telling AL-SHA'B they will take all legal measures against the instructions.

—Another 300-word report on page 7 claims that university dormitories continue to dismiss activist students. It says three female students were dismissed from the Cairo University dorm on charges of possessing religious books. In 'Ayn Shams University, the report adds, more than 1,000 students staged a strike to protest the dismissal of their colleagues from the university dorms. The report cites an Islamic Group statement as calling on university presidents and school principals "not to harass veiled students." The statement reportedly warns that "tampering with the issue of the veil and Islamic dress is like playing with fire and is an unacceptable provocation to a large sector of the Muslim Egyptian people."

SUDAN'S ISLAMIC LEADER AL-TURABI DISCUSSES FUNDAMENTALISM

On page 9, AL-SHA'B publishes the 1,800-word "second part" of an article entitled "The West and the Islamic Revival" by Hasan al-Turabi, leader of Sudan's National Islamic Front. [For part one of this series see the article titled "Al-Turabi Views Fundamentalism" in the Islamic Affairs section of the 27 September Near East South Asia DAILY REPORT page 7.] Discussing culture, al-Turabi says all Islamic fundamentalist movements believe that culture is an indivisible whole, and that scientific culture and religious culture are inseparable. "But unfortunately," he says, "few Islamic movements are prepared to establish

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universities that are both Islamic and modern." He maintains that the contemporary Islamic movements, such as the Sunni, Shiite, or Salafi schools, do not believe in sectarian thought; they view these sects as a thing of the past that can be studied only to learn from them as history.

Al-Turabi says the fundamentalists believe Islam is not meant to be only for Muslims and is not meant to occupy the world. "Therefore, they are tolerant of non-Muslims." He notes, however, that few Islamic movements have developed dialogues with non-Muslims, such as the Western world. He stresses that Islam urges dialogue with others "to ensure a state of peace among nations." But al-Turabi maintains that Islam does not want Muslims to turn the other cheek: "Those who start the aggression must face retaliation in a manner commensurate with the aggression, a word for a word and force for force, and this is exactly the meaning of jihad; namely, to struggle against others while keeping sound relations with them." He says Islam calls on Muslims not to initiate aggression or start the use of force, but to defend themselves against aggression.

Al-Turabi says Muslims should present Islam to people peacefully and gradually, not through force or coercion. "But—also unfortunately—you have to repulse aggression if you are persecuted and if force is used against you." He gives as examples Algeria and Egypt, where, he says, Islamists worked peacefully at first but were later compelled to use force against government persecution. In Sudan, al-Turabi says, Islamists have always enjoyed some amount of freedom, which helped the gradual development of Islam in that country. In some other countries, al-Turabi maintains, there is no way for Islam to move forward except through revolution, as happened in Iran.

The Sudanese Islamic leader says the West does not understand this new wave of Islamic revival, and deals with it as a stagnant, backward movement. He says the democratic West is prepared to abort any democratic experience in the world that may lead to an Islamic state. He claims that this happened in Algeria and Turkey, "and I am sure it will happen in other parts of the Islamic world." He also says that the West does not care about human rights when it comes to Muslims.

Al-Turabi finally notes that advocates of modernization also take a hostile position toward fundamentalism, "failing to understand and view it as a method for modernizing Islam and Muslims' ways of life." He contends that fundamentalism means that Muslims continue to move forward, not remain stagnant.

JORDANIAN ISLAMIC PARTY OFFICIAL DISCUSSES PEACE WITH ISRAEL

AL-SHA'B publishes on page 8 an approximately 1,500-word undated interview with Dr. Muhammad 'Uwaydah, secretary of the Jordanian Islamic Action Front, by Mahmud Bakri in Amman. 'Uwaydah reiterates his party's rejection of negotiations with Israel and stresses that all Palestine is the homeland of the Palestinian people. He says the Washington Declaration between Jordan and Israel gave nothing to Jordan and allowed Israeli to gain. Asked what the party is doing to confront the ongoing peace process, 'Uwaydah says: "We are still drafting programs to confront the aftermath of the settlement process, especially normalization with Israel. We have assigned many specialized committees to discuss the features and dangers of normalization and how to resist it." He adds: "We have also held thousands of seminars, speeches, and mosque sermons to mobilize the nation against normalization and the perils of the settlement process." The Jordanian Islamic official sees an Islamic awakening that will stand up to "the Zionist domination of the region." On the embargo against Iraq, Dr. 'Uwaydah says the "unjust embargo represents the hegemony of the United States, the West, and Israel, which know nothing about humanity, human rights, or justice." He says that the "politically motivated embargo targets the nation's will and free decision." He laments the fact that the Arabs are participating in the siege against Iraq.

WRITER ARGUES TIME FAVORS ARABS AND MUSLIMS

Page 5 is devoted to an approximately 5,000-word article by Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn in which he discusses the factors of strength in the Arab and Islamic nation, concluding that time is in favor of this nation and that "the current superiority of the American-Zionist alliance is of a temporary nature." Husayn analyzes the experiences of Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Yemen, and Algeria and maintains that those countries' steadfastness and resistance, which were based on their Islamic commitments, foiled American schemes and forced Israel to rush toward peace agreements and normalization of relations with some Arab countries. He writes: "If God grants [the Islamists] victory in Algeria, then we will have a belt of states rejecting capitulation, extending from the far Maghreb to Libya, Sudan, Yemen, Iraq, and Iran." He adds: "Israel sees with its own eyes that, thanks to the steadfastness of the mujahidin, time is not in its favor; the most it can do now is to hinder (not prevent) Arab-Islamic progress until it completes its talks and agreements with the countries around it." Husayn faults those who urge Syria to accelerate its steps toward peace with Israel, stressing that Israel is more eager than anyone else for a speedy agreement with Syria so that the latter may not join the rejectionists. Seeing that Israel dreads missiles, he says that "the most dangerous missiles are those installed in Syria because they are the nearest to Israel's cities and population centers."

FIGURES DENOUNCE CALL FOR MILITARY ACTION AGAINST SUDAN

In a 2,500-word report on page 3, Jamal Imbabi cites former and current officials, journalists, and public figures as assailing an article by Ibrahim Sa'dah, chief editor of the state-controlled AKHBAR AL-YAWM newspaper, in which he called on the Egyptian Government to invade Sudan and overthrow the Islamic government there. These figures reportedly stressed the importance of Egyptian-Sudanese ties and said the call "serves the Zionist-American scheme to destroy the Arab and Islamic nation."

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One of these figures, renowned Islamic preacher Dr. 'Abd-al-Rashid Saqr, is cited as calling for bringing Sa'dah to trial and saying: "The call for aborting the Islamic movement in Sudan and spreading secularism as an alternative is a reaction to the honorable Islamic orientation of the Islamic regime in Sudan."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat 'Insisting' on Holding Elections in November

TA0410154994 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 4 Oct 94 p 8

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza—Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, has said that 'Arafat is insisting on holding the general elections in November. Abu-Rudaynah said that the Palestinian police and security forces are totally prepared to assume all their responsibilities in the West Bank just as they did in the Gaza Strip. He added that the agreements signed between the PLO and the Israeli Government stipulate the redeployment of Israeli forces on the eve of elections.

'Arafat Reportedly To Head PA Elected Council

TA0510073894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 5 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Cairo talks between Israeli and PLO delegations on elections in the territories end today. The PLO leader will automatically be appointed head of the Palestinian Authority [PA] elected council and will not have to face elections. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem has the details:

[Ben-Menahem] It is clear that the elections the Palestinians want to hold in the territories will not be fully democratic. PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will not face any electoral process and as PLO leader he will automatically be appointed head of the PA's elected council. Dr. Samir Ghawshah, in charge of the labor portfolio in the PA, says that the Palestinian people and the Palestine National Council [PNC] have already chosen 'Arafat, and he is the president of the future Palestinian state.

[Ghawshah recorded remarks in Arabic; Ben-Menahem translates and continues] Dr. Ghawshah confirmed that this is the plan but not forever. When the interim stage ends, and general elections are held, and we obtain a Palestinian state, then 'Arafat and others will face elections. Yasir 'Arafat, Palestinian sources say, will also be able to appoint some of the members of the PA council. Only some of the members will be democratically elected. Dr. Ghawshah said that the elected council will be part of a wider council, the PNC.

There are areas where elections cannot be held, Ghawshah said. In such a situation, people will be appointed to the PNC, not based on 'Arafat's personal decision, but by the PLO's Executive Committee, Ghawshah said.

Shaykh Isma'il Haniyah, a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader in Gaza, said last night that Hamas will not participate in the elections if 'Arafat is appointed head of the PA council and is not elected democratically to his post.

DFLP Reelects Hawatimah, Condemns Detentions

MM0510115094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Oct 94 p 3

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "New Term for Hawatimah as Democratic Front Secretary General"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—The national conference of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine concluded its proceedings in Damascus yesterday with the reelection of Nayif Hawatimah as secretary general of the Front. A new Central Committee was also elected. One-third of its members are from the occupied territories and the other members are from the refugee camps and the diaspora in the Arab world and abroad. The conference, called the Martyr 'Abd-al-Karim Hamad Qays (Abu-'Adnan) conference, condemned the continued detention by the administrative self-rule authority of more than 60 Democratic Front members and supporters in the Gaza Strip. It called for their release.

DFLP To Participate in Municipal Elections

JN0310184594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Nihad Abu-Ghawsh, member of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has expressed the front's readiness to participate in municipal elections. Abu-Ghawsh reiterated the DFLP's refusal to participate in the general legislative elections. In a statement to our correspondent Wafa' al-Bahr, Abu-Ghawsh said:

[Begin Abu-Ghawsh recording] We in the DFLP held several contacts with the various national forces. We have always stressed the need to expedite the holding of municipal elections in all the cities and villages of the [Gaza] Strip, in particular, and in Jericho also. The Authority, however, appoints a temporary municipal council. We believe that this amounts to procrastination in holding the municipal elections which are viewed, be our people, as a democratic achievement.

We insist on holding municipal elections. We, however, refuse to participate in the so-called legislative elections. [end recording]

Islamic Jihad Statement on Elections, Intifadah

NC0510094594 Paris AFP in English 0914 GMT 5 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Oct 5 (AFP)—The hardline Islamic Jihad in Palestine Wednesday [5 October] urged Palestinians to step up the intifadah, or uprising, against Israeli occupation and denounced plans to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

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In a statement released here marking the anniversary of the intifadah, the fundamentalist group said: "The sixth of October should be a day worthy of the blood of our great martyrs, a day to step up the struggle and battle against the occupation (forces) everywhere."

The Palestinians launched their intifadah in December 1987 but the Islamic Jihad considers that the uprising started on October 6.

"No to self-rule elections which are aimed at legalising accords with the enemy," the statement faxed to AFP said.

The Islamic Jihad is strongly opposed to the Middle East peace process and the PLO-Israeli deal which launched limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho enclave in the West Bank.

The statement coincided with negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation in Cairo aimed at establishing the modalities and timing of Palestinian elections.

Qaddumi on Agreement With Israel, Other Issues

JN0410173394 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Oct 94 p 34

[FBIS Translated Text] In a private meeting with heads of Palestinian and Arab communities in Washington, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has called against surrendering to the current circumstances. He said that the situation in the Palestinian territories will improve from what it is at present.

Faruq Qaddumi said: The settlement we are currently busy with and which has yielded an achievement, whether or not we oppose it, indicates that developments are actually taking place on the ground. Qaddumi wondered whether this agreement would achieve the objectives desired by the Palestinians. He said that the Palestinian track is obstructed not only because of Palestinian reasons but also many Israeli reasons. Qaddumi emphasized the need for the Middle East situation to return to normal in order to create an atmosphere of reconciliation that would allow this settlement to yield results which respond to the minimum national requirements.

The head of the PLO Political Department said that the PLO accepted U.S. President George Bush's land-for-peace initiative, but the agreements being concluded are leading this settlement into a labyrinth not only on the Palestinian track but also on the other tracks. Qaddumi accused Israel of constantly trying to impose its own interpretation of these agreements, making the security issue the most important issue. Israel is a threat to the region because it own weapons of mass destruction, he said.

Qaddumi spoke about Israel's control over the crossing points even though the Palestinians agreed to share the administration of these border points. He said that there was supposed to be a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and the West Bank. However, what exists is a deployment of forces.

He noted the positive aspects of the agreement in the Palestinian arena since curfews have ended and the phenomenon of masked men has disappeared. This is in addition to the fact that there is a state of a partial relief among the Palestinian people. He added that among the negative aspects on the ground is the closure of Jerusalem and barring Palestinian workers from going there, noting that there is no justification for these practices.

Qaddumi spoke about the donor states and their conditions for dispensing money and aid. Noting his several years of experience as an economist and accountant in Yafo, Saudi Arabia, and other places, Qaddumi said he considers the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, PECDAR—which was established by the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] and is headed by him—the best and most organized Palestinian institution. He added that the donor states promised to pay the money regularly. However, he said, payments have been slow, constituting a method of exerting continuous pressure on the PNA.

He said that the reality is that the Palestinian people exist on the ground and want to coexist with Israel. He noted that we are there to receive every single inch of liberated land. Qaddumi added that settlements are still in Jerusalem and that they are increasing. Moreover, he said, the Jericho area has not yet been defined.

Qaddumi said that Shim'on Peres is talking about rosy dreams with which he is tempting other countries. However, Europe has begun to realize the facts that the Palestinians are clearly presenting.

As for why the PLO accepted this settlement, Qaddumi said that the Palestinian leadership agreed to take this risk, noting that it had to accept the lesser of the two evils. This choice was made inevitable by the political and financial pressures brought to bear on the PLO in the aftermath of the Gulf war. Qaddumi criticized the Palestinian National Authority's performance, describing it as unsatisfactory. He wondered why there are no adequate Palestinian capabilities and minds in the territories. He maintained that the responsibilities of Palestinian ministries must be spelled out. He went on to say that the Palestinian National Authority's improper conduct has prompted some donor nations to demonstrate dissatisfaction and reluctance to extend aid.

Qaddumi said that there is no Arab alternative, for the Arabs lack cohesion. By contrast, the Palestinian cohesion, said Qaddumi, had a positive impact on the overall situation. He added that we are partly to blame for this. He acknowledged that the current international state of affairs has had some negative repercussions. If the West manages to properly handle the Middle East conflict, it might be able to gain a key role in the region, because the conflict is economic rather than military, he argued. Regional conflicts have become local, as is happening in Afghanistan.

Qaddumi urged the Palestinian National Authority to improve its performance. Given the absence of inter-Arab coordination, we as Palestinians must realize that we have

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fallen into a trap. Nonetheless, Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] declared that Palestine is not for sale, that what we want is peace rather than capitulation, that there will not be divisions among us, and that we will not allow others to interfere in our affairs.

The meeting with Qaddumi took place on Friday, 30 September, the same day on which Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert met with a group of Washington experts at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. The writer of this report attended Olmert's lecture before attending the meeting with Qaddumi. Olmert repeatedly noted that Jerusalem has never been an Arab capital, or the capital of Palestine, for that matter.

We asked Abu-al-Lutf about Olmert's claims, he answered by saying: Olmert is gravely mistaken. For the status of Jerusalem, according to Caliph 'Umar's Covenant and the injunctions of Saladin, is widely known. The significance of Jerusalem to Arabs and Muslims is evident. This city has an extremely spiritual and historical significance. Damascus, Baghdad, and Egypt always had attrative incentives. But, Jerusalem was always the political and economic underbelly. Abu-al-Lutf said that Israel is a transient country in the region, created by certain interests. It was not the outcome of historical evolution. The evidence is that the Jews coexisted peacefully with the Arabs in Spain.

Qaddumi concluded by saying: Notwithstanding the current circumstances, throughout Arab history, Jerusalem was the region's lifeline. Whoever maintains presence in it is present in the region.

20 DFLP Detainees Released; 30 Still Detained

JN0510082094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 5 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian police in Gaza yesterday released 20 detainees from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], who were arrested following an attack on a joint Palestinian-Israeli patrol in the Gaza Strip.

Brigadier General Ghazi al-Jabali, chief of Palestinian police, said that 30 others are still in detention.

Police Release Four Hamas Detainees

TA0310160594 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 3 Oct 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza—The Palestinian police yesterday released four Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] detainees who had been held in detention for 15 days. They are Sami al-Walidi and Musa Kulab from Khan Yunus and Jibril 'Abid and Nazmi Abu-Muhsin from Rafah.

Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar met yesterday with Palestinian Police Commander Ghazi al-Jabali and stressed the need to release the four detainees, who had not been charged with any crime and had not broken the law in any way.

It is worth noting that the Palestinian authorities had detained the four following the martyrdom of Lieutenant Colonel Yasri al-Hums two weeks ago in Rafah. They were released from the Gaza Police Center in al-Shuja'iyah.

PFLP Calls For Release of DFLP Activists

TA0410163194 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 4 Oct 94 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Bethlehem, Bethlehem Press—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] issued a press statement in the Gaza Strip. The statement said: At a time when the self-rule authority is talking about democracy and is calling on opposition political forces to participate in building the Palestinian society, this authority embarked on detaining more than 50 sympathizers of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] for unknown reasons.

The statement condemned these detentions and called on the authority to immediately release all political prisoners and avoid such practices in the future. The statement stressed that the continuation of these practices places obstacles before the opposition forces' participation in building the Palestinian society and lays the foundation for Palestinian infighting.

Authority To Pay Salaries of Islamic Awqaf Employees

TA0410192994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Oct 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Hasan Tahbub, the official in charge of the awqaf [religious endowment] and religious affairs in the Palestinian Authority [PA], told our correspondent Kayid Zahir that as of the beginning of next month the PA will pay the salaries of the Islamic Awqaf employees in the West Bank and Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount employees.

Commentary Notes 'Wisdom' of GCC Boycott Decision

TA0310204294 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 3 Oct 94 p 16

[Unattributed commentary: "The Gulf States and the Arab Boycott"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states adopted a decision on a partial lifting of the boycott against Israel. This decision means a lot and is based on wisdom and farsightedness. It affirms the GCC states support of the peace process and contributes to its continuation until the achievement of a comprehensive peace on all fronts.

The decision by the GCC states does not mean any renunciation or concession at a time when Arab fronts are witnessing the signing of peace agreements with Israel.

In light of the progress achieved on the various negotiating tracks, this position by the Gulf states, which provides

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Israel with another opportunity to respond to the new requirements of this era and of a new world, whose features are being defined, means that Israel must respond positively to this wise step which supports the peace process.

As for the parties that are attacking this move by the Gulf states, their attacks stem from personal resentment and narrow-mindedness. Since the states directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict are signing peace agreements with Israel, why should we ask the Gulf states to remain in a state of war with Israel? And since the Palestinians have entered into a new era of peace with Israel, why should we keep the GCC states from presenting initiatives that support and seek to reinforce peace?

Paper Terms End of Boycott 'Failure' of Arab Unity

TA0310191894 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 3 Oct 94 pp 8, 7

[Editorial: "Ending the Boycott and the Israeli Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states' decision to lift the secondary and tertiary boycott of Israel reflects the failure of the call for Arab solidarity and unity of ranks and goals which we have repeated for many decades. There is no longer any solidarity or a single perception. Each Arab state is now acting in its own national interests. According to this decision, the blacklist of companies dealing directly or indirectly with Israel has been abolished. This decision, which was announced in New York on the eve of the meeting between Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and his U.S. counterpart, Warren Christopher, reflects the extent of the pressure the United States has exerted on the GCC countries to make goodwill gestures toward Israel.

While Israel is happy about this decision, many U.S. companies are satisfied because their names have been erased from the lists that had barred them from dealing with the Arab states. As for the official U.S. position, the aim was defined more clearly when Christopher stated that the step taken by the GCC states was no more than a step toward ending the Arab boycott in all its forms. As Palestinians and Arabs, we are not against lifting the boycott. Moreover, we are not against negotiations or peace, but logic dictates that this boycott be tied to the current peace process. It also dictates that this decision be in harmony with progress in a comprehensive peace process, with a comprehensive development project for the Middle East region, and with Israel's commitment to implement international legitimacy on all the Arab-Israeli negotiating tracks. We Arabs have lost all our negotiating cards and are left with no bargaining chip, yet we demand fairness, justice, and international legitimacy, which only the powerful can achieve.

Israel has won many gains since the peace process began in Madrid. Lifting the boycott is an addition to those gains. We are not against these gains, but we are pained when we see that the Arabs and the Palestinians have failed to achieve any noteworthy gains. Since the outset, their role has been to make one after concession another and to back down from the national constants or what used to be called national constants. We have even slaughtered all the sacred cows, and they are no longer sacred. What has happened to the Arab commitment about not retreating or making any concessions before Israel delivers on its promises and undertakes to withdraw from the occupied territories in return for peace?

While the Arab states are competing to appease Israel and the master of the world, the United States, and are presenting much evidence of their sincere efforts for peace, Israel has not changed its position or any of its noes. Thus, the United States is arranging Arab positions so that the peace efforts will bear fruit in accordance with the U.S. perspective. Israel has been recognized, the state of war with it has ended, and there is peaceful coexistence with it. Despite all this, Israel still insists that the United States continue to pressure the Arabs so that the bleeding in the Arab entity and existence will continue. This is the peace Israel is seeking—a peace akin to the peace of the graves.

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Algeria

Zeroual 'Would Resign' if Dialogue Fails

MM0510103094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Oct 94 p 1

[Report by Qasiyy Salih al-Darwish: "Zeroual: I Will Resign If Dialogue Fails; Its Continuation Does Not Mean Surrender to Salvation Front"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paris—Reliable sources have said that Algerian President Liamine Zeroual met yesterday with military command members and senior Army officers and that he tried in this meeting to reassure the military about the political dialogue with the [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] and its prospects. He stressed that the dialogue does not mean surrendering or handing over power to the FIS. According to other sources, President Zeroual added that he had pledged to hold it, that he initiated it, that he was responsible for it, and that he would resign if the dialogue he is conducting fails.

Before this meeting President Zeroual presided over a cabinet meeting in which he discussed the dialogue issue and explained his position on it in a bid to reassure government and state institutions. President Zeroual's move comes at a time when the general impression is that the dialogue has reached an impasse since the FIS leaders' release. Others believe that it has been tribal tension that has caused President Zeroual to slow his pace after the FIS leaders' release. Thus the fabrication of the tension in the tribes area has achieved its first political aim: putting pressure on President Zeroual regarding the dialogue issue.

Algerian sources in Paris have said that French authorities have warned Major General Mohamed Lamari, Algerian chief of staff, not to use force to impose his opposition to President Zeroual's policy on the dialogue issue. They reportedly told him that they cannot support him in this connection, on the basis of international and internal considerations. Maj. Gen. Lamari met during his three visits to France with the prime minister and the foreign, defense, and interior ministers, according to well-informed sources. However, the semi-official sources stress that the aim of Lamari's visit to France was to undergo some medical tests in Nice, and that his transit in Paris was accidental. [passage omitted]

Berbers Strike; MEI Denounces GIA Chief

NC0410132494 Paris AFP in English 1259 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Oct 4 (AFP)—Algeria's Berber people geared up Tuesday [4 October] for a 48-hour general strike aimed at winning recognition of their language and culture, as the fate of kidnapped Berber singer Lounes Matoub remained unknown.

The Berber Cultural Movement (MCB) called for the second strike in "business and the administration" in a fortnight in the Kabylie region of the country, an MCB official in the 'Berber capital', Tizi-Ouzou, told AFP.

Traders in Tizi-Ouzou, 110 kilometres (70 miles) east of Algiers, have been asked to close their shops on Wednesday morning, the first day of the strike, the official told AFP.

He added that the movement had no news of Matoub, who was abducted by armed gunmen near Tizi-Ouzou nine days ago in a terror attack blamed by the MCB and Algerian authorities on Moslem fundamentalists.

More than 100,000 Berber demonstrators threatened insurrection Sunday unless the suspected Islamic extremists released Matoub, and also demanded recognition of their language, Tamazight.

But the official on Tuesday said the MCB was calling off a demonstration it had planned to hold in Algiers on Thursday. The first strike two weeks ago paralysed the Kabylie region but had little impact elsewhere.

The government last week said it would set up a commission to study bringing Tamazight teaching into schools, but this move was rejected as inadequate by the MCB, representatives of descendants of Algeria's original inhabitants before Arab and other invasions.

In another development Tuesday, the armed Movement of the Islamic State (MEI) slammed the weekend appointment of a former fundamentalist leader as head of the country's most radical armed faction, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA).

The GIA is a prime suspect in the kidnapping of Matoub, which followed Thursday's assassination in Oran, western Algeria, of another renowned singer, rai performer Cheb Hasni, in an unclaimed attack.

In a statement signed by MEI leader and army deserter Said Makhloufi and his deputy Rabah Guettaf, the movement denounced the GIA's appointment of Mohamed Said as "a plot against the Jihad (holy war) and a Machiavellian plan to destroy the Mujaheddin (guerrilla fighters)."

A former teacher of literature from the Kabylie region, Said—whose real name is Lounes Belkacemi—joined the GIA in May and was in August named head of the "government or caliphate" declared by the GIA.

In December 1991 he was elected a member of parliament for the now outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in the first round of elections that the military had annulled in January 1992 when it became clear the FIS was going to win.

Up to 10,000 people have died in the ensuing conflict.

Said's appointment as GIA "government" leader was also attacked by the MEI, which, like the GIA, is hostile to any negotiations with the Algerian authorities.

The MEI statement, sent to AFP Tuesday, said the movement said it had "reliable reports of a letter from Mohamed Said to the authorities on the subject of talks."

President Liamine Zeroual's government in August began talks on a political settlement with various opposition

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parties and three weeks ago released the top leaders of the FIS, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, who had been serving jail terms on conviction of state security offences.

Neither have yet said whether they will join the talks, but some analysts in Algiers have taken Said's appointment in the GIA as a sign of the radical group's desire to "politicise" itself.

Committee Views Use of Berber in Education

LD0410192194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just received from the government services a statement in which the prime minister has announced the decision to set up a national committee to examine ways of introducing Tamazight [Berber] into the education curriculum. The national committee, headed by the prime minister, is composed of the minister of interior, local authorities, environment and administrative reform, the minister of national education, the minister of communications, the minister of higher education and scientific research, the minister of youth and sport, the minister of vocational training, the minister of culture and associations, the associations representing the movement for the promoting of the Tamazight language, national associations of pupils' parents, and teachers. The committee can also invite anyone else qualified for this task.

The committee is charged with defining and proposing to the government all the measures liable to gather all the administrative, technical, and pedagogical conditions for introducing Tamazight in the education curriculum. The committee will formulate its own statute which will regulate its various activities. Each of the ministers concerned, who are members of the committee, is charged with laying down the means of guaranteeing the success of the work of this committee.

Security Services Liquidate 6 'Terrorists'

LD0410222494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A communique issued today by the security services said that six terrorists had been liquidated by the security forces. The communique further said that four of them were liquidated yesterday during a search operation by the security forces in the Farkouk mountains in the province of Mascara. Three shotguns and a quantity of ammunition were recovered. The other two were liquidated last Sunday in the provinces of Chlef and Mila.

Soccer Club President Shot Dead Outside Home

NC0510105994 Paris AFP in English 1053 GMT 5 Oct 94

[Text] Algiers, Oct 5 (AFP)—Ali Tahanouti, president of Algerian first division football club La Jeunesse sportive de Bordj-Menaiel (JSBM), was shot dead outside his home near here Wednesday [5 October] officials said.

Mr. Tahanouti was shot outside his home under construction in the suburbs of Bordj-Menaiel, 70 km east of Algiers, in an attack by three armed men, security services said. The gunmen fled in a car.

Mr. Tahanouti was a leading figure in the football world and was president of the national association of football clubs.

JSBM joined the first division ten years ago and, under his presidency, has rarely been out of the top three clubs, although never winning the title.

Last year the coach of a police boxing team and the vice-president of a judo federation were killed by Islamic fundamentalists.

Egypt

Musa on GCC Boycott Decision, Foreign Ties

NC0410155694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that he met twice with Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih on the fringes of the UN General Assembly meetings in New York. They discussed ways to overcome the negative factors affecting relations between the two countries. Musa said: We will continue these contacts. We hope we will succeed in changing the course of relations from tense and bad to good, as they should be. Musa further said that no date has been set for meetings with Sudanese officials, but such meetings have not been ruled out.

Foreign Minister Musa made these remarks after his meeting with President Mubarak today.

Answering a question on his meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the current status of Egyptian-Iranian relations, and the contradictions in the stands of the two countries, Musa said: There are some contradictions. However, our stand on Iran remains as I have explained it several times, namely, that it is desirable to have good relations between the two countries. The positive points that can improve these relations are much more numerous than the negative points that impede them.

Musa said: I explained this in my address to the UN General Assembly and during my meeting with the Iranian foreign minister. At the same time, there is good cooperation between the Egyptian and Iranian delegations within the framework of the Islamic Conference Organization and international conferences. Matters are proceeding in a better way. He added: However, we demand a solution be found to the problem of the United Arab Emirates' islands. We also demand that Iran reconsider some of its policies in the region.

Musa said that he briefed President Mubarak on the outcome of his meetings with the Egyptian and Arab communities in Chicago and New York and their demands and stands. He added that he conveyed to President Mubarak their support for Egypt's policy and their close

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interest in developments in Egypt. He noted that the Egyptian and Arab communmities informed him of their full support for the peace process, for Egypt's key role in this connection, and for Egypt's stand on Bosnia. They also expressed their pride over the success of the International Conference on Population and Development and Egypt's civilized image and the strong performance of all its establishments during the conference. He added that his meetings with the Egyptian and Arab communities also dealt with the economic reform process in Egypt and their strong desire to invest in Egypt now that much of the red tape that used to face them has been removed.

Answering a question on the effect of the Gulf Cooperation Council's decision to abolish Articles 2 and 3 of the Arab boycott resolution, Musa explained that this decision affirms for Israel and the Israeli public that the Arabs are serious about peace and do not hesitate to adopt a number of steps. He affirmed that what is necessary is for Israel to reciprocate with a similar step so that the confidence-building measures will be mutual.

On the Syrian-Israeli talks, Musa said progress may occur on this track. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' will meet with U.S. President Clinton today. Christopher will arrive in the region during the next four or five days and will arrive in Egypt in the middle of October toward the end of his tour.

PA's 'Urayqat Meets Musa, Urges Intervention

NC0510114794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 5 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, the head of the negotiating Palestinian delegation in Cairo and minister of local government at the Palestinian National Authority [Palestinian Authority, PA].

Dr. 'Urayqat said after the meeting that he asked Musa to intercede with the Israelis to resolve some issues, especially elections in Jerusalem.

He said the Palestinians and the Egyptians believe in the importance of Jerusalem's inhabitants participating in the elections. Under any definition, he said, participation means running for and voting in the elections. It is inconceivable that people should vote for candidates who do not represent them, he said.

Dr. 'Urayqat said it is premature to pass judgment after only two days of negotiations, but there are still substantial obstacles and differences between the Palestinians and the Israelis and there are also differences over substantive issues.

He said the Israelis now have many Palestinian papers explaining Palestinian understanding of the elected council and its bodies.

He said he hoped the Israelis would submit their own concept of the elections, especially their link with the redeployment of Israeli forces outside densely populated centers and the revision of laws. He said all these things complement each other; elections cannot be held without redeployment and negotiations must cover all the issues in parallel so that we can reach a full agreement on the transitional stage as soon as possible before the end of the year.

Dr. 'Urayqat said that if the Israelis insist on a method of negotiations in which points are discussed in succession, not in parallel, then the required progress will not be made before the end of the year.

He stressed that the Palestinian side under Yasir 'Arafat believes that the elections should be held before the end of this year, because holding elections is the nucleus of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

He hoped all the obstacles would be removed so that the Palestinians could hold general political elections for a Palestinian council [words indistinct] by the people (a legislative Palestinian council with an executive arm). [parenthesis as received]

'Urayqat said the Palestinians and Israelis agreed on the executive and legislative nature of the Palestinian council that will be elected.

Concluding, he stressed that the Palestinian side insists on having Jerusalem inhabitants run for and vote in the elections.

Paper Rejects Rabin 'Maneuver' on Golan Pullout

NC0510080694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 5 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Oct (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR stresses that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, through his tactical call for a public referendum on Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, seeks to set a serious international precedent that may shake the foundations of world peace and security in various regions.

In an editorial in today's issue, the paper says Rabin imagines that through this exposed maneuver he can cast off his previous commitment to pull out of Syrian territory in return for full peace with Damascus.

The paper calls on Rabin to abandon this complex road, because failure to reach an agreement with Syria based on the return of the Golan in exchange for peace will undermine the other peace agreements in the region and make the Arab world reject any economic or other relations with Israel. Rabin's government's hopes for peace with the Arabs will then collapse.

Iraqi-Israeli Contacts, Motives Discussed

NC0410124294 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 30 Sep 94 pp 1, 3

[From the "Calmly Speaking" column by Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi: "Saddam's Secret Contacts With Israel and the Search for a Way Out"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Reports of Saddam Husayn's regime holding contacts with Israel for the past two years

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are not simply rumors that emerge and then disappear. Reports attributed to reliable sources say that these contacts have recently increased and intensified to a degree that has annoyed the U.S. Administration. Confirmed reports say the two Israeli officials, who asked not to be identified, have said that Prime Minister Rabin ordered a "halt" to all contacts with Iraq after receiving a warning from the United States. These officials added that the Israeli Embassy in Washington sent a cable to Israel saying that the "Americans, who are backing and supporting Israel with $3 billion annually, are angered by Israel's insolence" and that an official at the Israeli Foreign Ministry said that "the United States should at least have been consulted before these contacts were made."

The Iraqi regime has been shouting and yelling everywhere against the "Zionist entity" and "U.S. imperialism" for many years and has been the first to accuse anyone who thought of saying one word about peace or about relations with Israel of treason and of being an agent. The same regime is in a rush now to deal with Israel, hoping that the Israeli door will be the passage to being pardoned and to having the siege imposed on it lifted. [passage omitted]

What is happening between Iraq and Israel and what is the objective?

No one can give the reply to this question but several answers can be offered, with the truth lying somewhere in the middle, whether or not what each party is seeking will come to pass. Iraq or Israel could possibly simply be seeking to send signals that secret contacts "are taking place" so that each party can achieve its own specific objectives. But there are those who say that the contacts deal with bilateral issues. Israel is seeking to buy Iraqi oil cheaply and is offering to reopen the oil refinery in Haifa on the Mediterranean Sea to transport Iraqi oil to other countries for less than it would cost to transport it through Turkey or the Red Sea. Iraq wants Israel to influence U.S. decisionmaking centers to make President Clinton's administration drop its opposition to lifting the sanctions imposed on Iraq.

These are two of the possible answers, one of which could be right. But there are other answers that concern general issues relating to peace in the Middle East. There was talk during a previous round of secret contacts on a deal according to which Iraq would resettle hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees in return for something similar, namely, Israel's backing for Baghdad with the U.S. Administration. But this deal was not raised during the current round of contacts. Israeli sources hinted that Israel wants to lay down the bases for a comprehensive peace with "all the Arabs" and that, to a particular degree, it is not happy with the U.S. policy of ignoring the "revolutionaries" in the region, because, according to these sources, it is in its interest not to have any of those revolutionaries outside the peace process.

Even though the bases for peace with the parties that are directly involved have not been fully laid down in the bilateral negotiations, the contacts might be "vague" signals to Syria that Damascus would somehow understand within the framework of the conditions of the next stage. Some circles even go beyond the limits of the Arab region to the wider Middle East to speak of the possibility of Iraqi-Israeli coordination on the Iranian threat, especially in view of the presence of Iranian groups opposed to Tehran in Iraq. Thus the two sides would be killing several "birds" with one stone.

At issue is that the contacts between the two parties take place in secret and what takes place in secret is usually exaggerated to inconceivable proportions. Iraq certainly wants to find a party willing to help it emerge from the impasse in which it has placed itself. As for Israel, it has its own understood logic in holding these contacts. All countries look out for their own interests and we realize this only too well and sometimes we see nothing wrong in this as long as it is not detrimental to the interests of the other parties in the region. However, what is taking place is stirring up strange issues so that we do not understand what is going on. The Iraqi regime used to project itself as the paramount protector of the national pan-Arab interests and demanded Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories as a condition for withdrawal from Kuwait. It used Israel as a card to ease its "predicament" at the time. Now, this regime, in an about-face, is trying to use Israel again, in another way, to get out of its current "predicament" naturally without needing to bring up the pan-Arab subject again.

This regime constantly places itself in endless impasses and tries to extricate itself from them with other impasses. The results of the current contacts with Israel have been counterproductive. The meetings did not facilitate matters with the U.S. Administration. On the contrary, they generated U.S. pressure to stop them because they are more like below-the-belt punches that the current situation in Iraq and the U.S. policy in the region do not tolerate.

Iraq will become a real problem in the next stage because it is trying to move in any direction it can and to do anything it can. It might resort to reshuffling the cards to try to mess things up. It is suffering from a severe domestic impasse that has been aggravated to a point that the regime can no longer tolerate. There are several indications of the worsening situation, beginning with the economic crisis, political resentment, and acts of violence. Also, the regime is facing an external impasse represented by the international sanctions that it wants lifted at any price and in the near future. Caught between the two impasses, the Iraqi regime has no clear vision regarding Iraq's real interests or the straightforward path to extricate itself from this dilemma. All we can do is pray to God to protect the Iraqi people from their rulers. These rulers may embark on reckless and irrational acts, enmeshing them and their people in an endless impasse.

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'Militant' Defense Lawyer Held Another 45 Days

NC0410161994 Paris AFP in English 1530 GMT 4 Oct 94

[Text] Cairo, Oct 4 (AFP)—An Egyptian court on Tuesday renewed the detention for 45 days of a leading defense lawyer for Muslim militants, Muntasir al-Zayyat, a legal source said.

"The prosecution will continue its interrogation of al-Zayyat," he added.

Al-Zayyat, accused of being a member of the outlawed militant group al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, has been held for four months.

Security police say they found in his home "documents urging people to join a group whose aim is to impede by force the functions of state institutions and resist the authorities".

He was arrested on May 19 after a rally organized by the Egyptian Bar Association to protest the death of a lawyer while in police custody.

Two lawyers who were managing al-Zayyat's office in his absence have also been arrested for alleged contacts with Muslim militants sentenced to death while on the run.

Al-Zayyat, an outspoken critic of the government, is also the principle lawyer of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, al-Jama'ah's spiritual leader, currently awaiting trial in the United States on charges of planning a series of attacks in New York.

Muslim militants launched a violent campaign in March 1992 to overturn the government of President Husni Mubarak and replace it with a strict Islamic regime. More than 450 people have died since then.

Court Indicts 18 for Alleged Involvement in Riots

NC0110155494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 1 Oct (MENA)—The State Security Court—Emergency today began its trial of 18 defendants accused of taking part in disturbances in Suez.

The court decided to postpone the hearing until 1 November at the request of the defense panel, which wanted to read the documents and prepare a summation.

The court registered the presence of 12 defendants and the absence of 6 others.

The court presented the defendants with an indictment accusing them of joining a group set up in violation of the law and Constitution in order to obstruct the authorities; engage in assaults on citizens' personal freedom; harm the country's national unity by levelling charges of atheism against the regime; legalize outlawed acts; kill persons charged with enforcing the law; and use force and violence in their actions. [passage omitted].

Police Car Driver Killed, Officer Wounded

NC0510074594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2228 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Oct (MENA)—The driver of a police car was killed and a police captain wounded in his left foot when unknown assailants fired on them near the village of al-Ashmunayn in the Upper Egyptian Governorate of al-Minya.

Police Captain 'Asim Ahmad 'Abdallah from the Criminal Investigation Department was riding in a car driven by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Salam 'Abd-al-'Aziz en route to al-Idarah from al-Ashmunayn when their car came under fire. The driver was killed and the officer hurt. The officer immediately returned fire but the assailants escaped. Leading security officials have arrived at the scene to search for the assailants. The prosecutor has begun an investigation.

Police Arrest 5 Sudanese Traders in Border Region

NC0410174594 Paris AFP in English 1624 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 4 (AFP)—Egyptian police have arrested five Sudanese traders in the disputed Hala'ib border region, the Sudanese embassy press spokesman said here Tuesday.

Salah Ibrahim said Sudanese consular officials had approached the Egyptian government with a request to visit the five. "Their place of detention has not been disclosed," he added.

The Egyptian foreign ministry declined to comment on the report.

Egypt has a military presence in the Hala'ib region, which lies on the Red Sea between the two neighbours.

A week ago Egypt expelled two Sudanese diplomats after Khartoum kicked out an Egyptian diplomat.

Egypt has also accused Khartoum of detaining about 10 of its nationals in the past few months.

Egyptian-Sudanese relations have deteriorated since General 'Umar al-Bashir seized power in a coup d'etat in 1989 and set up an Islamic regime in Khartoum.

Libya

Jallud Seen for First Time in Months

LD0310211994

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at 2037 GMT on 3 October carries a video recording of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi attending public weddings which took place during the 1 September celebrations in Libya. Al-Qadhdhafi is seen wearing a

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European suit and is accompanied by Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, head of the Revolutionary Committees Bureau. Jallud is wearing traditional Libyan clothes.

Jallud accompanies al-Qadhdhafi to several weddings and is seen walking a few paces behind him. At one point, Jallud is the only person sitting next to al-Qadhdhafi while everybody else is standing.

This is the first public sighting of Jallud for several months.

Rwandan Vice President, Delegation Arrive

LD0310215194 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paul Kagame, Rwandan vice president and minister of defense, and the accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Talks Begin

LD0410163594

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tripoli JANA in Arabic at 1550 GMT on 4 October carries a report on the start of Libyan-Rwandan talks at noon today in Tripoli between Paul Kagame, Rwandan vice president and defense minister, and Libya's acting secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation.

The two men exchange speeches on the strength of relations between their two countries. The Libyan official says while colonialism is still working to keep Africa underdeveloped, Libya is working toward achieving African unity. There is no future for Africa, he says, without cooperation among its countries. The Rwandan minister expresses commitment to all agreements signed between his country and Libya and expresses his country's desire to further develop relations between the two countries. It is announced that talks will continue this evening to designate spheres of cooperation between the two countries.

ICO Urged to Adopt Resolution of Support

LD0410185794 Tripoli JANA in English 1812 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, (al-Timour 4) [4 October], Jamahiriyah News Agency—The secretary of the General Peoples Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation ['Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir] has called on the Islamic Conference Organisation [ICO] to adopt a definite position on the implementation of its resolution supporting the Great Jamahiriya in respect of the crises with the Western states.

During the coordination meeting for Islamic foreign ministers held on the fringes of the U.N. General Assembly, the foreign liaison secretary confirmed that the Western states never responded to the positive iniatives proposed by the Great Jamahiriya to settle the crises, despite the wide support enjoyed by the Great Jamahiriya from numerous regional and international organisations including the majority of the Security Council members, and instead, the Western states went on to extend the sanctions imposed on the Great Jamahiriya.

The secretary offered a list detailing the damages caused by the sanctions. He called for the need to join forces and coordinate positions within the member-states of the Islamic Conference Organisation (more than 50 states) to play a positive role within the United Nations [words indistinct] the secretary re-confirmed that the Great Jamahiriya is taking an active role in support of actions seeking the restoration of peace and stablitity and the end of fighting everywhere, particularly: Somalia, Bosnia and Afghanistan.

As for peace in the Middle East he re-affirmed that the only way to achieve it is by the return of all Palestinian refugees and enabling them to practice their legitimate rights and the establishment of their democratic state in Palestine which accomodates both Arabs and Jews.

Al-Qadhdhafi, al-Asad Hold Phone Discussion

LD0310122494 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother leader of the revolution [al-Qadhdhafi] and President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic have had a telephone conversation. During their conversation, the brother leader of the revolution and President al-Asad expressed their shared concern over the decline of the position of the Arab nation in confronting the enemy, which is occupying its territories, and killing and making its sons homeless.

They expressed their regret at the free concessions offered to the enemy at a time when nothing has changed since the occupation of Palestine in 1948, and since the occupation of Arab territories in 1967.

They stressed the need to coordinate Arab efforts in order to save the future of the Arab nation, and underlined the importance and need to convene an Arab summit at the earliest possible date. They also said that the Arab nation will triumph.

'Race' To Recognize Israel Viewed

LD0410191194 Tripoli JANA in English 1828 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli (al-Timour 4) [4 October] Jamahiriyah News Agency—News agencies publish reports, almost daily, from Arab and Western capitals, indicating that further Arab regimes are poised to acknowledge the Israeli entity.

In the first instance, it seems as if there is a race between these regimes as to who will be the first to acknowledge this parasite entity, and who will be the first to normalise relations, which is the diplomatic expression for surrender and capitulation. This confirms that the Arab nation is sliding quickly into a very dangerous trough. It has become

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obvious that the Arab nation is being pulled towards surrender for the enemy which occupies its territory for more than 50 years, and poses a direct threat to its very existence.

Those who monitor various developments confirm that these Arab regimes had done so as a result of pressures and direct orders from Washington, the natural and strategic ally of the Israeli nuclear entity. Observers also note that these regimes had taken such caiptulation stances away from the Arab League and in total disregard for its resolutions which represent Arab collective positions, that had been adopted by the regimes themselves. This shows that these regimes do not respect their institutions and do not respect their past resolutions, while implementing and in complying to American instructions.

The saga of capitulation, which began by the Madrid Conference and up to the deal signed by the Jordanian king, and the latest decision by the Gulf Cooperation Council to lift the Arab boycott for the Israeli enemy, all this constitute a serious deterioration within the Arab nation. It also confirms the absolute significance of the call by the leader of the revolutiom to hold an urgent Arab summit to stop the deterioration and salvaging what could be salvaged.

In this respect, the telephone call which took place yesterday between the leader of the revolution and [Syrian] President Hafiz al-Asad, is the best expression for the common concern for the collapse in the Arab situation vis-a-vis the enemy which occupies the territory and expells its people, and the rising need to hold the Arab salvation summit.

Mauritania

Opposition Condemns Arrest of Islamic Leaders

AB0510090494 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1215 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In Mauritania, the Union of Democratic Forces, the leading opposition party, is angry and indignant at the recent police raids on Islamic fundamentalists. The party's secretary general, Ahmed Ould Daddah, says there are no Islamic fundamentalists in the country and that the arrests of the Islamic leaders are a flagrant violation of the Constitution. Here is Ahmed Ould Daddah talking to Salem Mesbour Salem:

[Begin Daddah recording] I particularly condemn the violation of the Constitution, the law, and legal procedures, because some people were arrested in Mauritania between the hours of 2200 and 0500. Most of them were arrested at that time. Some judges have been arrested without respect for legal proceedings, which should be authorized by the Supreme Court. A Democratic and Social Republican Party parliamentarian was questioned by the police without having his parliamentary immunity lifted. It is the flagrant disregard and scorn for legal norms and provisions that worry us; this is what we condemn. The information we have shows that the government has no proof of those allegations. The government simply wants to score political points with the repression against Islamic militants because they think that will please certain foreign circles, especially France. These repressions, however, have nothing to do with the situation in Mauritania. [end recording]

Sudan

President Issues Decree, Appoints State Minister

EA0310163094 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the Republic, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, has issued Republican Decree No. 80 of 1994, appointing Mr. (Achol Nagor Majok) minister of health and social affairs in the northern state. This is in accordance with the laws of Article 16 of the 4th Constitutional Decree of 1991.

Presidential Decree Announces Ministry Reshuffle

EA0410213094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the Republic, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, today issued a decree reshuffling the two ministries of the presidency of the republic affairs and the affairs of the presidency [as heard].

Consequently, the name of the two ministries and the occupants of these offices will be as follows: Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, minister of the presidency of the Republic; Dr. Awadh Ahmad al-Jaz, minister of the presidency for the council of ministers.

Al-Bashir, Libyan Envoy Discuss Relations

EA0210161294 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the Republic, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, today in his office in the Republican palace met with Mr. Ibrahim al-Bishari, the personal envoy of Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The two reviewed the relations between the two countries and ways of supporting and improving them, in order to serve Arab and Muslim interests better.

They also discussed Libya's call for convening an Arab summit meeting to discuss the situation in the region in the light of the challenges and plots facing the Arab and Muslim nation.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir stressed the eagerness of the National Salvation Revolution to support all Arab efforts aimed at achieving Arab unity. He pointed out that to convene an Arab summit meeting would help clear the air and achieve Arab reconciliation. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir proposed that the conference be held in the Libyan city of Tubruq.

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Egyptians Reportedly Arrest Citizen in Hala'ib

EA0410154594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 2245 GMT 3 Oct 94

[Text] The Egyptian authorities have continued their oppressive practices against Sudanese citizens in Hala'ib Governorate. They have arrested five of them inside Sudanese territory without any legal justification, and they are still detained in their prisons.

A responsible source stated that at the beginning of July the Egyptian authorities arrested the Sudanese citizen Shams al-Din Muhammad Ahmad while he was on his way to Hala'ib town to visit his family. He was arrested on latitude 22 degrees inside Sudanese territory. The source added that after his arrest, Shams al-Din was transferred to the headquarters of the Egyptian Forces' Command in the town of Hurghada. He was detained there for a whole month after which he was subjected to a sham trial. He was sentenced to one year's imprisonment and fined 2,000 Egyptian pounds. He is now in Qina prison.

The source said in its statement that the Egyptian authorities continued to violate the sovereignty of Sudanese territory and toward the end of August, they arrested four Sudanese citizens who were carrying out their usual trading activities in the Sudanese area of Shalatayn. The source said that the four citizens, Salah Muhammad Ahmad, Hashim al-Hasan Diyab, Muhammad Ahmad Ibrahim, and Hamad Dafa'allah are still detained in Qina prison, and are subjected to continuous investigation and interrogation.

Tunisia

Foreign Minister Meets With Peres, Christopher

LD0510093694 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 5 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] During a recent meeting in New York between Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya and his Israeli counterpart Shim'on Peres, it was decided to create channels of communication between the two sides to enable Tunisia to continue its role in giving impetus to the peace process and helping brother Palestinians to remove obstacles to the consolidation of Palestinian self-rule.

Following the meeting, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher yesterday invited Habib Ben Yahya and Shim'on Peres to talks at the State Department in Washington. They reviewed latest developments in the Middle East peace process and the efforts made to give momentum to the peace process in the region in order to establish a comprehensive and just peace. Ways of ensuring the consolidation of Palestinian self-rule and the results of the bilateral and multilateral talks were also discussed.

In a statement after the meeting, Habib Ben Yahya recalled Tunisia's persistent efforts to bring about peaceful coexistence, and the fact that it called for a fair settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict based on justice and dialogue before these concepts became widely accepted in the region. [passage omitted] Ben Yahya said that, in the context of the peace process, Tunisia has hosted two sessions of multilateral talks, and plans to host a third session soon. [passage omitted]

Ben Mustapha Announces Full Cooperation With Tehran

LD0110205694 Tehran IRNA in English 2036 GMT 1 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 1, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Education and Research Abbas Maleki held separate meetings in Tunis today with Tunisian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Said Ben Mustapha and Minister of State for Research Dr. al-Munji [name as received].

Ben Mustapha announced his country's readiness for full-fledged cooperation with Iran.

He hoped that the visit to Iran in the near future of the Tunisian foreign minister would be a turning point in bilateral friendly relations.

Ben Mustapha said Tunisia has got a developing market and he called on Iranian traders and merchants to invest in Tunisia and help increase mutual commercial cooperation.

In the other meeting, al-Munji said Tunisia was interested in expansion of ties with all Islamic countries and was looking forward to cooperation between Iranian and Tunisian universities.

Maleki said Iran gives priority to expansion of relations with Islamic countries and that promotion of Tehran-Tunis cooperation in area of political and economic research would consolidate the two countries' relations.

He called for exchange of research teams between their respective universities and scientific centers and said Iran was ready to dispatch Persian language professors to Tunisia.

Western Sahara

President Interviewed on U.S. Visit

LD0410215494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz [Ezzedine] has paid a private visit to Washington, which lasted one week. During the visit, he met American authoritative political figures and members of the U.S. Congress. He also gave lectures at specialized institutes, introducing the Saharan issue. En route for his country, colleague Zine El Abidine Bouicha conducted the following interview:

[Begin recording] [Bouicha] Mr. President, you are coming from a private visit you paid to Washington at the invitation of members of the U.S. Congress. What was the interest of the American political class in the Saharan issue?

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[Ezzedine] During this visit I noticed that the scope of sympathy for and knowledge of the issue has widened vertically and horizontally, on the grassroots level and at the level of important and influential circles in the United States.

[Bouicha] Mr. President, the identification process currently taking place in the Saharan areas is facing some obstacles. Is this because the process is technically complicated or for lack of political will to overcome the obstacles?

[Ezzedine] In fact the hindrance is the absence of political will on the part of the Moroccan kingdom. The Moroccan kingdom wants to rig the process. It does not want to hold a free and democratic referendum for the self-determination of the Saharan people. The Moroccan kingdom only wants a rigged process through which it would legitimize its unlawful occupation of the Western Sahara.

What is specifically hindering the identification process is the insistence of the Moroccan Government to include a large number of Moroccans in the voting list—their number even exceeds that included in the Spanish census of the Saharans in 1974, which is considered legal and proceeds from the peace plan on which voters count is based. Moroccan will to include Moroccans in the voting list is hindering the process.

[Bouicha] Mr. President, UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali will tour the region next November; are there new developments in the UN peace plan for Western Sahara?

[Ezzedine] The new development is that the identification commission has started its work. From now until November it would be possible to judge the effectiveness or the ineffectiveness of the identification commission's work. In my view, the UN secretary general and the Security Council should now, in order to save the peace plan, put great pressure on the Moroccan kingdom to start direct negotiations, on the sidelines of the identification process and on the sidelines of the current process regarding the peace plan, and also to start serious political direct negotiations within the framework of the peace plan under the auspices of the UN in order to resolve the problem. [end recording]

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Gulf Countries To Hold Meetings on Collective Security

MM0410152294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Oct 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Hasin al-Bunyan and Faris al-Salman: "Gulf Military Meeting on Saturday To Reinforce Concept of Collective Defense"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, Kuwait—As of the beginning of next week, Riyadh witness a series of extensive Gulf meetings which will deal with ways of reinforcing the concept of collective military, defense, and information security.

These meetings will precede the 15th summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states' leaders, which Bahrain will host in December.

The Gulf meetings will begin next Saturday in Riyadh with a meeting of the GCC states' chiefs of staff under Lieutenant General Muhammad Salih Hammad, Saudi chief of staff, to review the course of defense cooperation among the member states.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the military leaders will stress during their meeting the importance of this cooperation in reinforcing the concept of collective defense among the GCC states in the face of all challenges and threats in view of the Iraqi regime's continuation [in power] and the lack of confidence in relations with Iran—which poses a threat to regional security.

Informed sources say that commanders of the GCC states' armies will also discuss the unification of the control system and the radar surveillance network which will link all the GCC states in anticipation of any threats that any member state might face in the future on the basis that "the GCC states' security is a whole and cannot be divided," in order to safeguard the security and achievements of these states.

The meeting will also look into the views proposed to develop the Peninsula Force now present in Kuwait in terms of its armament and combat capability. [passage omitted]

Consultative Council Term Opens

JN0110133994 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1100 GMT 1 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 1 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, has welcomed the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states who will hold the GCC's 15th summit in Bahrain.

His highness expressed hope that this summit will be a turning point and a successful and important summit designed to renovate and proceed toward our tasks regarding the current changes in the regional and international situation.

Addressing the third ordinary term of the Consultative Council this morning, his highness said that adherence to work and to the joint fate among our states and peoples in the GCC will continue to be one of Bahrain's national and pan-Arab constants from which we will not depart.

His highness said that regardless of the difficulties and challenges in the GCC's march, which we acknowledge and try our utmost to circumvent, there will be no alternative to the GCC as a framework, an entity, and a guarantee for the common future in our Arabian Gulf. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Approves Higher Council for Islamic Affairs

LD0410200894 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, servant of the Two Holy Places, may God preserve him, has issued his consent for the formation of the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs [al-Majlis al-A'la lil-Shu'un al-Islamiyah] under the chairmanship of Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general. The membership is the following:

Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, interior minister;
Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign affairs minister;
His Excellency Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, finance and national economy minister;
His Excellency Dr. Khalid al-'Anqari, higher education minister;
His Excellency Dr. 'Abdullah Bin-Ibrahim-Bin al-Shaykh, justice minister;
His Excellency Dr. 'Abdullah Bin-'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Turki, Islamic affairs, religious endowments, call and guidance minister;
Dr. Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali, secretary-general of the Islamic World League. [passage omitted]

Authorities Move Against Critics

NC0510084694 Paris AFP in English 0007 GMT 5 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Oct 5 (AFP)—Saudi authorities have gone on the offensive against their critics amid mounting calls from religious leaders for a radical shake-up of the Gulf kingdom along Islamic lines.

A fatwa, or religious decree, was issued this week in a bid to stifle criticism from an Islamic human rights group, the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR).

The fatwa, issued by a former CDLR member, Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Jibrin, banned "the distribution of statements" from the group, which has mounted scathing attacks on the policies of the Saudi royal family.

The CDLR was banned in Saudi Arabia just days after it was founded in May 1993, prompting Shaykh al-Jibrin to leave, but has continued to issue statements from London.

Shaykh al-Jibrin, now a member of the Council of Ulama, Saudi Arabia's highest religious authority, said the CDLR

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"should have made recommendations instead of issuing statements which may have revealed secrets or contained erroneous information."

He also poured scorn on the group's leader, Muhammad Mas'ari, "who is not reputed to have a solid theological training and who completed his higher education in a foreign language."

Mas'ari graduated in physical sciences from a university in former West Germany.

However, the shaykh's statement made no mention of arrests of opposition activists, condemned by the CDLR.

Last month the CDLR claimed that some 1,500 pro-reform activists had been arrested in a military-style crackdown by Saudi authorities.

Mas'ari said a "climate of fear" had descended on the kingdom after the sudden arrests.

The Saudi interior ministry responded by announcing 110 opponents had been rounded up, including two leading clerics accused of holding "contacts with suspect groups based abroad."

The aim of the foreign groups was to "sow discord and anarchy in Saudi Arabia," the ministry said.

It was the first wave of arrests to be announced by Riyadh since 1979 and the ministry warned it would further "strike with an iron fist anybody who dares to harm the country's security."

The official press immediately condemned what it described as an anti-Saudi campaign orchestrated from abroad, and urged the government to demonstrate its "resolve against those who spread sedition" in the country.

Another exiled Saudi opposition group, the Organisation for the Council and Defence of Legitimate Rights, was set up in April by 'Usamah Bin-Ladin, a Saudi stripped of his nationality and based in Sudan.

The Al Sa'ud family are reported to be worried by the threat posed by both opposition groups, fearing the sympathy they inspire abroad and the possibility that they could join forces with other Arab fundamentalist groups.

A former Saudi diplomat, Muhammad Al-Khilawi, was granted political asylum by the United States after he condemned human rights violations in his country and defected from the Saudi delegation to the United Nations.

State Department spokeswoman Christine Shelley said last week: "The United States does have serious concerns about the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia," in what was viewed as rare criticism of one of its trading partners.

Iranian Activities Seen at Varience With Islam

JN0110110194 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 27 Sep 94 p 9

[Editorial: "Crisis of Ethics in Iran"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iran's propensity to play with fire can only be explained by the way its practices are mostly dictated by an endless crisis of ethics and a strange thirst for chaos, war, and destruction—although eight years of bloody war with Iraq should have been enough for the Iranian leaders to be satisfied with destruction to the point of intoxication.

That war should also have been enough to convince them that wars and making problems will not bring happiness to anyone, but will instead lead to the same fate from which the Iranians suffered for eight years—and from which they continue to suffer until now. Nevertheless, The Iranian regime is ready to repeat the experience of pain and destruction in a way that does not show any feeling of responsibility toward the people, any respect for the human instinct to have peace, or any idea about saving the blood of Iranian citizens.

Iranian officials' statements these days only indicate that they advocate war, destruction, and hate contrary to the Islamic slogans in their media.

As faithful, sincere, and pure Muslims believe, and as God's holy book says, Islam means peace and does not mean the chaos and political adolescence that has been taking place in Iran. Muslims are advocates of peace, construction, and love not only among Muslims and neighbors but among all world peoples. However, we see that the Iranian officials are unable to establish normal relations with any world people, including Muslim and neighboring peoples. This certainly means that the flaw is not in all peoples but in the mentality that runs the state's relations in Iran.

The revolution in Iran has taken all kinds of positions that can only be described as being far from honesty or Islam, starting with the vengeful calls for confusion which sought to export black terroristic ideology, and running to the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war, the rejection of calls for reconciliation, the continued occupation of Arab islands, provocative calls for chaos, and an apparent passion for stockpiling weapons, in spite of the end of the war with Iraq—and although stockpiling weapons always comes at the expense of resolving the Iranian economic crises whose continuation supports the aggressive mentality of the ruling troika in Iran. All this can be added to the military parades that are held without any reason other than psychological considerations. The latest of these practices have been the threats, statements, and mobilization of reserves only because the Iranian officials saw a patriotic song on the United Arab Emirates [UAE] television station.

Tehran continues to accuse the United States of antagonizing it, but it is known that the ones who realize the American dreams in the Gulf region are the Iranians themselves in particular. Iranian troublemaking only serves the arms dealers and represents an invitation to the big powers to interfere. Making trouble and threats, and military parades in any part of the world serves the interests of the countries that are able to interfere. This

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means that the Iranian practices fully meet the political wishes of the big powers, and it is unreasonable to think that Iranian officials are unaware of this.

It seems that the Iranian regime is suffering from a serious internal crisis because whenever its internal crises and problems increase, it unleashes its media against the Gulf states in a way that lacks the simplest principles of human morality.

As for the Iranian occupation of the UAE islands, if Iran says it has documents proving that the islands are Iranian, then why does Tehran fear referring the subject to the International Court of Justice? Why are these documents only present in the Iranian media? The failure of Iran to seek a peaceful solution to the islands problem, or use the International Court of Justice means that it does not have documents proving that the islands belong to it.

Yemen

Prime Minister Designate on Priorities of Cabinet

JN0410184594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister designate 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani by correspondent Emile Haddad; date and place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Haddad] Mr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani: Yesterday evening, you were asked to form a new Yemeni cabinet. What will be the priorities of this new government?

['Abd-al-Ghani] The fact that His Excellency President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih asked me to form a new cabinet shows that he has great confidence in me. This is a great honor to me. I am aware of the fact that holding a public post is a responsibility, rather than a manifestation of prestige. Nonetheless, I am honored to have been asked to form the new cabinet. The priorities of the government will be to rebuild what was damaged in the fighting fomented by the gang of secessionists and renegades, and address some economic issues. God willing, we will manage to cope with the crisis plaguing the country, and marshal our potential and resources toward agricultural and industrial development. We will also seek to improve the country's performance in the areas of mining and oil production.

[Haddad] Mr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani: You have graduated with an economics degree. How do you foresee the future of Yemen's economy?

['Abd-al-Ghani] The future will bring prosperity, God willing. At present, we are facing enormous difficulties caused by the war. We acknowledge that some of these difficulties emerged during the transitional period. Nonetheless, we view the future with great optimism.

Vice President 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi Sworn In

JN0310131594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Staff Major General brother 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi took the constitutional oath today before Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on the occasion of his appointment as vice president.

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Saddam Chairs Cabinet Session, Condemns U.S.

JN0410191394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, has said that the objective before us now is to lead the entire people to safety, together with their great cause and with their heads held high, God willing. This can be achieved through perseverance, endurance, increasing production, and constant thinking of the national constants known of the Iraqi character. This character proudly rejects bread in return for agentry to the foreigner, and will not allow the foreigner and its agents to control Iraq's economy.

These remarks were made by the president leader, may God preserve him, in the cabinet's 22d session. During the session, the trade minister reviewed his successful visit to Vietnam. The minister explained how both the U.S. Administration and the British Government follow up on the food contracts which Iraq concludes with the [foreign] companies and states, and how they apply pressure [on others] to deny Iraq food and medicine.

The trade minister also explained the positions of the good companies and international circles hostile to these mean U.S.-British efforts.

The president leader, may God preserve him, commented on these efforts and on the general position of the U.S. Administration and the British Government and their agents in the region. He said that these evil ones want the Iraqis to be in the same situation as the Somali, Rwandan, and other peoples. However, they are deluded, he added.

The president leader said: Did they forget the [oil] nationalization decision, our decisive reply to Khomeyni's aggression, and our firm reply to the U.S. conspiracy concocted with the petty U.S. agents on 2 August 1990? His excellency added that the Iraqi people will render helpless those harboring ill intentions. We will never accept that our people die of hunger, because this is not considered legitimate by God, His worshipers, the international charters, or the so-called human rights, he said.

The cabinet discussed the trade market's budget and a draft law to organize the work of trade agency companies. It made the appropriate decisions in this respect.

Foreign Minister Confers With UN's Ekeus

JN0410194694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf at noon today met with Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, the executive chairman of the UN Security Council's Special Commission, who is currently visiting the country.

During the meeting, the two sides held a serious and frank discussion concerning Iraq's relationship with the Security Council and the Special Commission. Attending the meeting on the Iraqi side was Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, head of the Military Industrialization Organization, in addition to two members of the delegation accompanying Ekeus. It was agreed to hold a second meeting tomorrow.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Views New Ekeus Mission

JN0410133994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 4 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says UN resolutions are first adopted at the U.S. State Department or the White House, which is stained by the blood of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, and then faxed to the UN secretary general's office or Ekeus' office to dictate what they should do concerning Iraq.

In an article today, the newspaper says it is certain that the first thing Ekeus will discuss with Iraq is the statement made by the minister of culture and information a few days ago in which he said Iraq will be forced to reconsider dealing with his excellency Ekeus if he were to drift behind the declared U.S. policy that is based on renewing the siege, refusing a partial lifting as stipulated in implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. Addressing Ekeus, the newspaper said: You will ask about the secret behind this new Iraqi position, and whether it is a return to square one as we reorganize things in accordance with a correct and clear logic. It is certain that you will say that this position will create new problems and will weaken the UN role on the issue of the blockade.

The newspaper adds: Regrettably, you are implementing Washington's orders vis-a-vis Iraq and others, as experience has proven. Can anything weaken and dwarf the UN role to the point of turning it into an office belonging to the U.S. State Department more than this?

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: We have never meant to weaken the United Nation because it is in our interest that the United Nations remains strong as an organization defending world peace and security on the basis of justice and respect for the sovereignty and independence of member states as stipulated by the UN Charter. Therefore, the weakening of this organization by Iraq happened when it was forced—while defending the lives of millions of Iraqis—to reveal the fact that the United Nations is only playing the role of a messenger between the United States and Iraq. It emphasized that sometimes the United Nations plays the role of a false witness to convince the world public opinion of the soundness of the U.S. measures. On other occasions, the United Nations plays the role of the weak policeman who hits on behalf of the U.S. cowboy, who is hated by the majority of world peoples who were not aligned with the Soviets or the Americans during the cold war.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: We do not trust your promises, but this is not because we do not respect you. We respect you as a human being and as a ranking representative of the international organization, but we do not trust you because you are helpless, and what you say is based on the

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feelings of a European diplomat who has not yet bought the U.S. morals, which are derived from low animal instincts. Therefore, allow us, Your Excellency Ambassador Ekeus, to clearly ask you in the name of Iraqi children of whom thousands die daily as a result of the siege, and the elderly who are tortured due to the lack of medicine and appropriate food, when will the series of changes in the UN conditions come to an end? The paper then asks: Have you decided to stick to a certain position, and what are its limits? Tell us exactly what you want from us. Do you really seek the implementation of the UN resolutions only?

The paper notes that in late 1993 Ekeus said publicly that Iraq had implemented more than 80 percent of its commitments toward the Security Council resolutions, and even expected a near partial lifting of the siege. Now, after nearly one year, we ask: What made you add new conditions that were not part of your original conditions? What will guarantee that these new conditions are no more than another attempt to wrench gradual concessions from Iraq for nothing in return, although what is needed is to reward Iraq for its commitment to implement the UN resolutions by partially lifting the siege so it will continue its cooperation in implementing the other resolutions?

AL-JUMHURIYAH says it is time for Ekeus to decide exactly what he wants since Iraq's patience toward this soft way of dealing with us has run out. Until early this year, Ekeus used to reply to those who ask for his opinion on delaying the partial lifting of the siege by saying he is not a politician, but executor of UN resolutions within the framework of international legitimacy. In other words, he refused to deal with the political motives in the field of implementing the UN resolutions, but now he accepts this.

The newspaper recalls a fact that Ekeus knows very well, which is that the first and second world wars were caused by the imposition of borders on Germany without negotiations or German approval. It asks: Does Ekeus wants to impose borders at the expense of the dignity and rights of the Iraqi people?

The newspaper adds: Don't you know, Mr. Ekeus, that history says that when peoples reach the verge of collective death they will be able to spread death to include all? Don't you know that the siege you are perpetuating by backing down on your promises leads to the daily death of hundreds and even thousands of Iraqis? Don't you know that patience has its limits and that trying to anesthetize Iraq will take us back to square one—from where we should never have moved before having you tell us, and within a definite timetable, what you were going to give us in return for each concession you've made under the pressure of the official international terrorism of the United States.

Concluding, the paper says: You will find that we have reached the wall from which there is no room for retreat. Henceforth, unless you offer something specific, clear, and known to the Iraqi people, you will not see open, serious, and honest cooperation from us. You will see other things that will not please the one sitting behind the fax machine in Washington. Then your excellency will be a spectator of events whose directions cannot be known either by you or he who is wearing black spectacles.

Article Urges No Monitoring Without End to Embargo

JN0510095794 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 1 Oct 94 p 1

[Article by Sa'd Qasim Hammudi: "Beware of the Anger of the Forbearing"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The next two weeks will undoubtedly lead to a decisive point in the military, political, economic, and media confrontation between Iraq and the Hafar al-Batin alliance led by the United States, a confrontation which began in August 1990 and has been continuing since then in various forms.

The accursed Ekeus, head of the Special Commission entrusted with implementing Part C of the infamous Resolution 687, is supposed to present his report on 10 October along with a mechanism on plans for future monitoring of the Iraqi military industry. Thus the subject of weapons banned in Iraq will be closed and the Security Council will decide on the beginning and duration of the test period which, in fact, does not even exist in the resolution.

The current struggle is between Iraq and the United States—not the Security Council. This struggle mainly concerns the compliance with the legal provisions of Resolution 687—which is an unjust U.S. plan in the first place—and the U.S. political interpretations of the resolutions and the additional unjust U.S. conditions that have nothing to do with Paragraph 22 of the resolution, which stipulates the lifting of the embargo on Iraqi exports, particularly oil. Despite the fact that the Iraqi stand enjoys the support of the vast majority of the Security Council members, Washington and London are continuing their pressure and blackmail—using their veto power, for their conspiratorial and immoral motives to force Iraq to its knees, to mortgage its sovereignty and future, and to push it from its free and pan-Arab line.

The policy of taking everything from Iraq and refusing to recognize its rights and just demands is an unjust and oppressive policy. We must put a stop to this policy immediately and work to fulfill the mutual [al-mutaqabilah] commitments stipulated in the unjust Resolution 687. There can be no future monitoring without lifting the embargo. There can be no unilateral cooperation with the United Nations. The international community must carefully read President Saddam Husayn's statement and choose between truth and falsehood. It must end its apathy and stop watching sadistically as Iraqi children become sick and die and as the unjustified starvation of 20 million people continues.

Paper Assails Albright Statements on Resolutions

JN0510083394 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 25 Sep 94 p 3

[Article by Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, secretary general of the Arab Popular Forces Conference]

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[FBIS Translated Text] When the Oslo-Washington Agreement was signed, I warned in this paper that the agreement would lead to a retreat on all the gains that had been made and all the resolutions that had been passed for the Palestinians by the UN General Assembly, Security Council, and other regional and world organizations.

A new chapter in the U.S.-Zionist plan began yesterday when Madeleine Albright, Washington's representative at the United Nations, called on the Arab block in this world organization to reconsider the UN resolutions on the Palestine question and the Arab-Zionist conflict and drop all those that are related to Jerusalem, the settlements, the refugees, and other substantive issues that have been deferred to the negotiations on the final status, which are supposed to begin in 1996 as stipulated in the Declaration of Principles between the PLO leadership and the Zionist enemy.

This is how the U.S. Administration, Tel Aviv's strategic ally, behaves. Just as it has succeeded in canceling the UN General Assembly resolution which equates Zionism with racism and racial discrimination, it is now striving feverishly—aided by the division and collapse in the general Arab stand—to cancel every Palestinian Arab gain. These gains have been achieved with the blood of martyrs and the sacrifices of strugglers for the sake of liberating Palestine, asserting its Arabism, and defeating the imperialist-Zionist plan to usurp Palestine and wipe out its identity.

The Washington-Tel Aviv axis is trying hard to receive its reward immediately in the form of normalization in all fields and cancellation of the Arab boycott. As for those who have taken part in the Madrid Conference and subsequent negotiations, contacts, and agreements, they have received nothing but vague promises and statements from a cunning negotiator who knows that he holds all the keys and that the U.S. sponsor has given him carte blanche.

Those who have been deluded by the alleged peace and prosperity promised by the Zionists and their U.S. allies will soon find that the next step will be the withdrawal of the recognition of the State of Palestine by 102 states, some of which have already agreed to reduce their recognition to that of an administrative self-rule authority, dependent on Israel's approval of everything big or small.

It is time the Arabs and their forces put a limit to this conspiratorial chain and began their counter-offensive by breaking the Arab blockade that has been placed on Iraq since the immortal Mother of Battles and pooling the resources of the nation in order to resist this hostile plan with all its onerous links.

Article Urges 'New Method' of Dealing With U.S.

JN0510081494 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 29 Sep 94 p 1

[Article by Salah al-Mukhtar: "Turning Around To Face the Enemy is the Beginning of Salvation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An old Arab proverb says that if you do not want to be stabbed in the back by someone chasing you with a dagger, you should stop running and turn to face him. If a man continues to run with his enemy holding a knife behind him, the time will come when he will tire and drop dead from exhaustion. Thus, the enemy will triumph. But what will happen if the man turns and faces his assailant?

It is obvious that the United States is trying to exhaust the Iraqis, to use up their resources and patience, and force them to collapse by mass starvation. Therefore, the United States has insisted on prolonging the embargo and refused to see reason or observe international law and the people's right to self-determination. It has confronted the whole world in its attempts to hurt the unity and dignity of the Iraqis by systematic starvation. The latest step in this regard is blocking a deal to purchase food to increase the difficulties of the Iraqis.

In order to deter the United States, and in order for the masses to preserve their dignity, independence, and the future of their children, they must stop running and tell The United States with perfect clarity: We have agreed to make many concessions. We destroyed our missiles, weapons, and factories in the hope that the embargo would be lifted. You were not satisfied. On the contrary, you changed your conditions and added more terms that harm our dignity and future. Therefore, it is time we chose a new method of dealing with you and your emissaries, such as the accursed Ekeus and others.

The great leader Saddam Husayn has said: "When we feel that the Iraqis might starve, by God we will open for them the stores of the entire world." The United States must understand that there is a limit to the patience of the Iraqis. They must not imagine that the destruction of Iraqi missiles and other weapons will strip the Iraqi people of their ability to influence matters and change the course of history. The will of people who want to live in dignity is the strongest and most effective missile.

Does the United States realize the meaning of opening the stores of the world with the will of the Iraqi people? Will it be able to face the gigantic mines laid here and there that could weaken and isolate it further? Does it realize the meaning of every Iraqi becoming a missile that can cross states and cities?

Need for Opposition To Unite Noted

MM3009125394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Sep 94 p 15

[Article by Sa'd Salih Jabr, chairman of the Free Iraqi Council: "Opposition and Working To Topple Saddam Regime... How?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Current conditions in Iraq and developments in them are witnessing rapid changes involving further complication in the factors affecting their course and more great dangers threatening to inflict more horrific disasters on Iraq's present, people, and future. Of course, the main cause of these dangers is the fact that the Saddam regime remains in power, although over the past three years internal and external conditions

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have been better for toppling the regime and establishing an alternative constitutional parliamentary system.

As for the most important and marked changes and the dangers resulting from them, they can be summed up as follows:

1. The regime's attempt to regain the initiative at the internal and external level, after it has managed to rebuild its repressive organs and terrorist networks.

2. The regime's attempt to normalize relations with a number of states in the region and in the world. And its endeavor to lift the oil blockade imposed on it in order to use its huge revenues to reinforce its military power and consolidate its pillars without any benefit for the Iraqis.

3. The expansion of the international Western interference, especially U.S. interference, in the opposition's affairs by supporting certain groups not really representing Iraqi society's forces and groups and their aspirations and aims.

4. The continuation of the opposition's split and the worsening of its crisis and disunity.

On the other hand we find the following aspects:

1. The effects of the international embargo imposed on Iraq have intensified, producing the following two main results: First, a huge drop in the living standard of the great majority of citizens, to the extent that the specter of starvation and disease is now hanging over them like a terrible nightmare—which could lead to a resounding explosion as a result of a revolution prompted by starvation. As for the second result, it is the effect on and the harassment of the regime—which could force many of the groups and elements forming the regime's foundation to abandon it and join the opposition.

2. The spread of discontent among new groups and forces in the central areas—especially Baghdad, Tikrit, al-Ramadi, and Mosul—and their joining of the opposition. This poses a great threat to the regime, because most high-ranking leaders in the Army, the Armed Forces, and the regime's institutions belong to these areas.

3. The existence of passive or armed popular resistance in the southern areas, and the regime has no authority in the Kurdistan region.

—The general outcome of these aspects characterizing the situation in Iraq indicates that the regime—so it seems and as proved by experience—is capable of confronting and obstructing any decisive actions against it. This capability might be stronger than before, which means there are better conditions for the regime being able to remain in power, hence inflicting further destruction and disasters on Iraq and the Iraqis and exposing them to an unknown future.

—If this emphasizes—more than ever before—the need to hasten to topple this regime, it also requires deeper and more serious thought about how our people and their opposition forces will be able to achieve that and learn the lessons of the experiences of past years, and how the course of the conflict between the people and the opposition on the one hand and the regime on the other will be determined.

—Without doubt this requires thorough analysis and examination of the factors reinforcing the regime's continuation in power, whether before, during, or after the Iraq-Iran war, or over the past three years, which began with the invasion of Kuwait, the world's declaration of hostility toward the regime and the imposition of the international embargo, and then its defeat in the war, the eruption of the uprising, and the continuation of the resistance to it until now. The possibility of toppling the regime and all the necessary factors existed during all these stages, so why has the regime not fallen?

Actually, despite the importance of the great and generous sacrifices made by our people during their resistance to the regime—and the March 1991 uprising represented its peak—they were not sufficient to topple the regime. Nor were the numerous and courageous attempted military coups sufficient to topple it. Let alone the opposition's role, efforts, and political and informational moves abroad, and the role of the external factor—regional and international—which has begun in recent years as a great helping and effective factor in the work to topple the regime.

—All this is bound to lead us to a number of important conclusions in order to understand the main reasons why the regime remains in power. The most distinguished reasons are as follows:

1. The regime's possession of dreadful material and repressive power should have formed a weak point, but the opposition did not exploit it in the required manner.

2. The regime's possession of a political dynamism giving it a great ability to maneuver with regard to the people, the opposition forces, and the outside world.

3. The external factor is not the decisive factor in keeping or toppling the regime. So surrendering to it if it is with the regime, or relying on it if it is against the regime are two erroneous stands. The role and effectiveness of this factor should be determined in every situation, and it should be exploited to topple the regime.

4. The people's resistance or their uprising against the regime can lead to the regime's downfall only when it has a competent and alert political leadership that has specific and well thought-out slogans in order to polarize all groups of the Iraqi people. The defeat inflicted on the March 1991 uprising proved this, as such a leadership did not exist.

5. The hope of all groups of the Iraqi people in all Iraqi areas joining the opposition and fighting the regime by all means cannot be achieved or represent an effective and decisive factor in toppling the regime unless a political leadership defines the general Iraqi national aims and slogans, that is, in the framework of the national identity, not in ethnic, sectarian, or territorial frameworks.

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6. The hope of the Army, the Armed Forces, and important categories of the regime's institutions and party joining the opposition and working to topple the regime requires the availability of motivating factors that encourage this and whose role the regime cannot obstruct—factors consistent with the factors available to all the other groups of the people and all the areas.

7. The opposition's weakness as a result of the failure to unify it on the basis of the general Iraqi national positions and as a result of the spread of personal inclinations. And maybe the regime's infiltrations and [its] siege of the influential opposition forces represented a major factor in the regime's continuation in power.

—The conclusion we can draw from this list of the main reasons why the regime remains in power is that the opposition and all the influential intellectual, academic, and social elements should work to transcend and eliminate these reasons by doing the following:

A. Bringing about a unified position and psychological unity among Iraqi public opinion inside and outside the country with regard to the question of toppling Saddam as an issue important to all the Iraqis, not just one group or some groups of them.

B. Uniting the opposition's action inside and outside the country and in all the Iraqi areas and governorates around specific slogans and aims, first and foremost toppling the regime, so that every faction or individual works to achieve them according to its or his capabilities, circumstances, and working methods.

C. Focusing on the influential forces in the Army, the Armed Forces, and the regime's organs.

D. Working through all means to secure whatever is bound [to lead] the people of central Iraq and Mosul to join the resistance against the regime in a more effective manner in coordination with the other groups and areas and their opposition forces.

E. Working to eliminate the negative effects (political and ideological) of one social group or another or one area or another.

F. Ensuring maximum benefit from the regime's weaknesses, turning them into sources of strength for the opposition against the regime.

—To achieve that, the following must be done:

1. To create or form a higher unified political leadership for the opposition. It should be characterized by competence and integrity. Its members should be known to Iraqi public opinion inside and outside the country. It should work in accordance with a realistic and moderate political rhetoric that is acceptable at the Iraqi, regional, and international levels in order to achieve the aim of toppling the regime.

2. To work to transcend the Salah al-Din conference formula (the National Congress), on the grounds that it has proved a failure. And because its formation, practices, and structure represent a provocation, not to certain groups in Iraqi society, but to most Iraqis, as those in charge of the congress acknowledge their isolation on the Iraqi scene.

—As for the direct and current practical steps needed to achieve the first task, as the second would be achieved automatically once the first is achieved, they are:

1. To begin to hold dialogue meetings among the opposition forces and parties that did not participate in the Salah al-Din conference or those which pulled out of it.

2. The framework of the dialogue meetings should be broadened to include the forces and parties which have objections to the congress. And these should be urged to withdraw from it officially lest they represent a cover for the congress and its practices.

3. It should include known independent oppositionists who have leadership qualities and qualifications and personal characteristics that make them fit for the task.

4. Those participating in the dialogue meetings should discuss an ideal method of forming this leadership—through a broadly based meeting or a conference—and discuss and formulate the required political rhetoric and the practical steps to implement it.

5. After the dialogue, debate, and the accord among the main forces over the formation of the proposed leadership, the leadership should be granted confidence and support through a broadly based meeting or a conference if need be or according to the resources.

The Iraqi people of all sectors and in all areas are now—after the bitter disasters they have suffered—completely willing to unite the opposition's ranks and form a leadership whose integrity is not suspect and which represents forces and figures known for their resolute and continued opposition to the regime, and also known for their competence, altruism, and willingness to make sacrifices for the sake of the Iraqis and Iraq.

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IDF Receives Map With 1st Golan 'Withdrawal' Line

TA0410192394 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Oct 94

[Video report by Army affairs correspondent Roni Daniyel]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was today revealed that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has already received a map specifying the first line of withdrawal from the Golan Heights. The withdrawal includes only the Druze settlements on the Golan Heights, and, as Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin declared yesterday in the Knesset, no Israeli settlements will be evacuated during the first stage.

There is still no comprehensive plan for the evacuation of the Golan Heights; however, the first stage has already been mapped out and placed on the desks of decision-makers in the IDF and the government. The Israeli proposal, which has already been handed to the Syrians, stipulates that the area comprising the Druze villages of Majdal Shams, Mas'adah, and Buq'ata in the northern part of the Golan Heights will be turned over to Syria during the first stage. The prime minister hinted at this yesterday in the Knesset:

[Begin Rabin recording, in progress] ...after the initial stage, which will involve a very limited withdrawal that will not necessitate the uprooting of settlements on the Golan. The intention is to test full normalization over a period of three years, during which we will hold on to most of the Golan. [end recording]

The area marked out here within the red lines does not contain any Jewish settlements. The border line will stretch very close to Kibbutz Elrom, and the IDF will withdraw from a number of security outposts on the border without conceding any important territorial assets.

Minister Says Investments in Golan Should Continue

TA0510104294 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 5 Oct 94 p 7

[Report by Yehuda Goren]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The agreement with Syria is not yet guaranteed and, as long as this is the case, we must not dry out the Golan settlements. We must keep supporting them, including planned investments." This declaration was made yesterday by Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish, who was speaking at a ceremony inaugurating an expansion of the Golan Heights Winery in Qatzrin. The ceremony was attended by Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Northern Command; Yehuda Volman, head of the Golan Regional Council; and others. "The government policy by which the Golan Heights was termed a national Priority A region must be upheld," Harish concluded. The Industry and Trade Ministry's investment center has approved a four-year 14-million shekel investment plan for the Golan Heights Winery, of which 5 million are a government grant.

French Chief of Staff on Role in Golan Contingent

TA3009195194 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Sep 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] If approached, France will agree to participate in a multinational peace force on the Golan Heights, the French chief of Staff said following a visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum today. He was accompanied by Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq. Our correspondent Yiftah El'azar was also there:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [El'azar] Asked whether France will agree to participate in an international contingent to be deployed on the Golan Heights, the French chief of staff, Jacques Lanxade, said:

[Lanxade, in French] I believe France will be inclined to give an affirmative reply to such a request, if made.

[El'azar translates and continues] Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] chief of staff, noted that no such suggestion had been raised during the visit, and even the resumption of the purchase of weapons had not been discussed.

[Baraq] I think what Admiral Lanxade meant was that France is often involved in peacekeeping contingents and international operations in many countries around the world. It sent troops to Rwanda, Somalia, Bosnia, and other places, and it is basically willing to comply with such a request. Yet I do not think anything definite is on the agenda right now, and it definitely was not discussed during the visit.

[El'azar] In view of the legislative initiative seeking to shackle the Golan issue, will the IDF's life be easier if Israel retains the Golan Heights?

[Baraq] A chief of staff in uniform and you, an IDF soldier in uniform, are not supposed to discuss anything pertaining to legislation or policy. [end recording]

Arguments Raised Against U.S. Deployment on Golan

TA0310125294 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (24 SHA'OT supplement) in Hebrew 3 Oct 94 p 5

[Article by Salay Meridor: "If a U.S. Contingent Is Stationed on the Golan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In view of the talk about a U.S. contingent on the Golan, one wonders how beneficial it will be and whether, from the security viewpoint, it will be able to compensate Israel for the loss of strategic assets. The marginal contribution of the multinational force—mainly as inspectors—might have been satisfactory in the Sinai, but deep demilitarization is unachievable in the Golan, which has no natural barriers such as the Suez Canal or the Sinai Desert. The question is whether the U.S.

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contingent will be able to become a substantial component in the Israel's defense in the event of an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal.

A research paper published recently by Dr. Dore Gold from the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies asserts that while such a contingent can contribute significantly to the supervision of an agreement implementation, it has little value in the foremost spheres of deterrence, of repelling an attack, and of protecting the attacked party.

There is no need to wander off as far as Somalia and Haiti to understand the limitations of a U.S. or an international contingent. We witnessed U.S. on an unprecedented scale in our own region quite recently, during the Gulf War. What lessons can we learn from the Gulf crisis in this context?

Kuwait, which counted on the U.S. interest in its oil reserves, trusted the United States to protect it. Yet was U.S. intelligence able to anticipate the Iraqi invasion and warn against it? Did the concentration of half a million U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia deter Saddam Husayn, cause him to retreat, and avert a war? Will Israel be able to wait six months for the United States to call up its troops, as Kuwait did? And finally, did the United States really conclude the war, or—fearing for its troops—did it not stop short of a decisive victory, leaving Saddam's regime intact and still a potential threat to all Iraq's neighbors to this very day.

Half a million U.S. troops did eventually get the Iraqi Army out of Kuwait, but the United States failed to provide an intelligence warning, was unable to deter, and was afraid to conclude the war. Will Israel consent to give up "the eyes of the state" [reference to Mount Hermon], the deterrent power it derives from its presence on the heights, 40 km from Damascus, and its defensive capability—in exchange for several hundreds or thousands of Americans?

The lessons of the Gulf war apply to the question of the U.S. contingent's usefulness no less than to the harm the contingent is liable to cause the Israeli self-defense capability. I will never forget how several days before the war broke out, Bush's messengers came to Israel to try to link the anti-Scud aid for Israel with their demand that we do not react if attacked by Iraq; how for weeks, we received no vital intelligence information from them; how they would not allow us to act in our defense by refusing our request for coordination that would prevent accidental encounters between American and Israeli aircraft. None of this was done out of sheer malice. It happened simply because when American troops are involved, everything is dictated by the need to protect their wellbeing.

What will happen if a U.S. force is deployed on the Golan? Is it that impossible to imagine instances in which Israel will be denied vital information because of their fear that our reaction would jeopardize their soldiers? Should we not expect to clash with them over the interpretation of Syrian moves? Will they refrain from pressuring us not to initiate a preemptive strike? Will our freedom of combat remain unencumbered by the presence of a U.S. force on the Golan?

For example: Syrian missiles are launched at Tel Aviv, and to stop them, we decide to create a surface threat to Damascus by movement on the Golan. What will the U.S. troops hamper in such a case: the Syrian missiles or the IDF tanks? And if Iraqi or Iranian missiles are launched, will the U.S. troops not restrict us as we overfly Syria on attack missions against the launchers? Will not their readiness to provide early warning of a missile launch at our population centers be contingent on our pledge not to act in a way they believe may jeopardize their troops? Is it not true that rather than limit the Syrians, the U.S. force will tie Israel's hands, diminish the IDF's deterrent capability, force the United States to appear "neutral," and become the focus of an acute Israeli-U.S. discord? And will we not be required to pay the price of their decision to defend the lives of their men?

A U.S. contingent can definitely contribute to the supervision over the implementation of an agreement, and in a limited fashion, also to deter the Syrians, but it is not a real substitute for the IDF as a provider of early warning, deterrence, and defense. Its damage to our freedom of action can be material.

It is not by chance that since the Ben-Gurion era, the Israeli defense doctrine has been based on the self-defense principle. It should remain unaltered in the future—the IDF, rather than foreign soldiers.

Israeli Official Views Buenos Aires Bombing

PY0410114694 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 1 Oct 94 p 13

["Summary" of interview with Uri Dromi, Israeli Government press relations chief, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [CLARIN] Two months have gone by since the AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association] bombing. What is Mosad doing toward the investigation?

[Dromi] Mosad is currently sharing intelligence information. It is not participating in the investigation. We leave that in the able hands of Argentine authorities.

[CLARIN] Is any Mosad agent cooperating in intelligence matters in Buenos Aires?

[Dromi] No. Cooperation is conducted by telephone, fax, and during meetings in other places, not in Argentina.

[CLARIN] What kind of intelligence information does Mosad share with Argentina?

[Dromi] Reports on the movement of possible suspects, individuals linked to previous attacks, information on the activity of Iranian nationals around the world, technologies used in other attacks, that type of thing...

[CLARIN] You know the Argentine Government lowered the tone of its accusations against Iran...

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[Dromi] Let me tell you something. Israel has considerable experience in warning the world about some dangers. For instance, the hijacking of planes by Palestinian terrorists during the 1960's and 1970's, Iraq's nuclear capability at the beginning of the 1980's, and now the Iranians. People will know in the future how right we were, but it takes time.

[CLARIN] So Israel has no doubt Iran was responsible for the attacks on the Israeli Embassy and the AMIA.

[Dromi] Absolutely. This is not the work of any particular group. These attacks have the stamp of the Iranian Foreign Ministry and the Iranian secret services. They did the same in Turkey, Egypt, and many other places. The have a great ability to use local contacts in carrying out their attacks.

[CLARIN] Do you not consider a more direct participation of the Israeli intelligence services necessary, in view of the slow progress in clarifying the 18 July attack?

[Dromi] It is not our policy to interfere in investigations conducted by local authorities, who know the situation in their countries better. On the other hand, we would not make it public if we were to take concrete action. This is an essentially Argentine matter and we will respect it as such. We have great hopes in the Argentine secret service. It is important that the latest attack highlighted the need to reinforce security on Argentina's borders, where there is a lot of movement.

[CLARIN] Is Israel exerting any pressure, demanding progress in the investigation?

[Dromi] No pressure, but of course, we want to see results.

Mosad Reports Syrian Link in Buenos Aires Blast

BR0410161294 Barcelona EL PERIODICO (Barcelona Edition) in Spanish 25 Sep 94 p 1 (Tentative)

[Report by Roberto Bermudez: "The al-Kassar Trail"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Barcelona—The results of the investigations carried out by the Argentine judiciary to discover who was behind the attack against the Israel-Argentina Friendship Association (AMIA) may be concealing those really responsible for the 18 July massacre, which caused 104 victims and 150 wounded. A team of experts from the Mosad's Special Military Engineers Unit traveled to Buenos Aires with the dual aim of discovering the class of explosives used in the attack and establishing how the attack was set up. The team, headed by General Zeher Ivne [as published], found that the substance used was exogenous.

This conflicts with an inquiry by Argentine Judge Juan Jose Galeano who concluded, on the basis of expert investigations carried out by the Argentine Federal Police, that the explosive used was amonal. The report made by Ivne to the Jerusalem authorities states that under no circumstances can amonal cause shock waves at over seven blocks' distance or hurl human limbs over 100m. Both reports agree, however, that the attack was caused by a car bomb.

After initially determining the explosive and then analyzing the surfaces of the AMIA building, the Mosad calculated that some 600 kg of exogenous had been required to blow the building up; faced with this conclusion, they asked themselves how such a large quantity of explosives could have entered the Argentine capital. Exogenous is manufactured in only two countries in the world, the United States and Spain. The Americans produce it for their arms industry, especially for hand grenades, but they do not export it to other countries.

In Spain, exogenous is manufactured by two companies: Santa Barbara, which produces it in a factory in Valladolid for military purposes, and two factories—one in Galdakano (Vizcaya), the other in Paramo de Masa (Burgos)—owned by the Spanish Explosives Union, which make another variety frequently used by petroleum companies. This data, noted by the Mosad, tallies with the records of the Spanish Industry Ministry's Directorate General for Mines.

Their inquiries led the Mosad agents to conclude that the exogenous used in the AMIA attack was made in Spain and, using that piece of information, they worked out that the explosives had traveled along the following route: Some time in 1990 the Spanish Explosives Union, as part of a normal export campaign, sold a sizeable shipment of ammunition, weapons, and chemical substances officially to South Yemen, although the shipment ended up in Syria. According to records in the archives of the Defense Ministry's Directorate for Arms and Materials, the operation grossed $126 million and included, among other types of ammunition, some 200 tonnes of exogenous.

The Mosad agents established that the middleman in this operation was Munzir al-Kassar, the alleged trafficker arrested and brought to trial two years ago by National Court Judge Baltasar Garzon in connection with the Achille Lauro hijacking, for whom the public prosecutor only last week demanded a 29-year prison sentence and a 1.2-billion-peseta fine. The Syrian national, who lives in Marbella, is currently on bail awaiting sentence and has been handed over to Argentina under an extradition agreement, charged with counterfeiting documents.

The Mosad became certain that a part of the Spanish arms shipment was sidetracked to Croatia, and a part of the exogenous went to Buenos Aires via Syria through Ezeiza [as published] airport, when the man in charge of the customs office was Ibrahim al-Ibrahim, a Syrian married to Amirah Yoma, President Menem's sister-in-law. Al-Ibrahim has been tried and definitively sentenced in Spain by Judge Garzon, for laundering drug money in an affair also involving Yoma herself. Al-Ibrahim is a fugitive from the law and is presumed to be hiding in Syria.

The Israeli agents strongly suspect that the commission paid to al-Kassar as middleman for the arms deal was camouflaged as an export deal involving the sale of food produce (sugar and coffee) to South Yemen. That is why the Mosad totally denies any Iranian responsibility in the AMIA bomb attack, and maintains that Syria is behind the

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massacre, although the Tehran regime is likely to have provided logistical support. Israeli sources put forward the theory that the Buenos Aires attack was in reprisal for the capture of Mustafa al-Dirani, a guerrilla leader in the pro-Syrian Amal militia, captured by the Israeli army during a spectacular airborne operation in Lebanon on 21 May.

The reasons why Iran rather than Syria was dragged into the recent Buenos Aires attack, according to sources involved in the case, are exclusively of political convenience, not unrelated to contacts between Syria and Israel within the framework of the peace process.

For the time being, the Mosad investigation has been filed away in an attempt to sweep it under the rug, so that responsiblity for the attack may remain unknown, as has happened in other similar cases in Argentina.

Shohat Views Progress of Talks With Palestinians

LD0310145594 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In Cairo, Israel and the PLO have resumed their peace talks, focused on the forthcoming elections in the Palestinian self-rule areas, which 'Arafat said in Madrid a few days ago he wants to be next month, and on the redeployment of the Israeli forces in the West Bank. Coinciding with the resumption of the negotiations, the Israeli finance minister told this station today that the process of reconciliation in the region has been moving very quickly since the signing of the peace agreements. Angel Garcia:

[Garcia] On the major problem of the negotiations with Syria, Avraham Shohat thinks that there will be a change in the position of President Hafiz al-Asad. They thus hope to achieve an agreement and they trust that the majority of the Israeli people will accept it in a referendum.

On the subject of the Palestinian self-rule areas, the minister said that there must be a change in economic relations in Gaza for the peace to move forward. This requires the arrival of international aid from the donor countries. He believes that the delay in the arrival of this aid is due mostly to the recipient and that the donors want to see that the money is being used for the purposes for which it was given. He is also certain of the progress in the peace process:

[Begin Shohat recording in English, fading to Spanish translation] Speaking generally about the Middle East, speaking generally about what Israel hopes to do, I believe and hope that we shall achieve an agreement from the point of view of the process and of our policy of reconciliation with the Palestinians and with the Arab countries. [end recording]

Shahal: Haiti Mission To Depart in 'Few Days'

TA0410182694 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 4 Oct 94

[Statement issued by Eric Bar-Chen of the Police Foreign Press Liaison Office on 4 October]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, 4 Oct (GPO)—Police Minister Moshe Shahal was pleased to hear of the High Court of Justice's decision permitting the dispatch of an Israeli police mission to Haiti. Mr. Shahal views this decision as an important one and underscored that High Court decisions are a vital part of any government's activities in a democratic country. Mr. Shahal apprised the prime minister of the situation and spoke with Deputy Commander Gabi Amir, the proposed head of the mission, informing him that he should now complete final arrangements prior to the mission's departure for Haiti.

The mission is expected to leave within the next few days. An announcement will be issued when a final decision as to the date is made.

PRC Deputy Premier Offers 'Special Guarantees'

TA0410195094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Oct 94

[Political correspondent Gadi Sukenik video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Chinese Deputy Premier Zou Jiahua said today at the beginning of his official visit to Israel that the PRC is prepared to grant special guarantees to Israeli entrepreneurs in order to encourage them to invest in Chinese industry. The Chinese guest told Israel Television that he saw great prospects for cooperation between the PRC and Israel. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports:

[Begin recording] [Sukenik] Even before his arrival, the Chinese deputy premier explained to his hosts that he did not want to discuss military and defense issues. I am interested in Israeli investments in China, he said, and the more the better. At a meeting with the prime minister and economic ministers this morning in Jerusalem, Zou Jiahua made it clear that he meant what he said. His country was prepared, he affirmed, to meet Israeli entrepreneurs more than halfway, whether for a plan to conserve water for irrigation purposes or the huge joint potassium factory in China the construction of which has been agreed upon in principle. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified Chinese official, translating Zou Jiahua's remarks into English] And I have already told your ambassador to Beijing that the prospects for our cooperation in the future is very promising.

[Sukenik] The balance of trade between China and Israel will double this year and reach $200 million. The Israeli rush on China is in full swing. It is not easy, but the potential is enormous. [end recording]

Peres Meets Tunisian, Omani Foreign Ministers

TA0510064894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 5 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres last night had meetings with the foreign ministers of Tunisia and Oman. The Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya later attended a dinner at the residence of the Israeli ambassador in Washington. In his reply to a toast

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proposed by Peres, Ben Yahya said: We have come out of the closet. Connie Lonn reports:

[Begin Lonn recording] Foreign Minister Peres ended a successful two-day visit to Washington by meeting at the State Department with the Tunisian foreign minister. The Tunisian official said the meeting symbolized Tunisia's time-honored advocacy for peaceful coexistence. Foreign Minister Peres said: We want everybody to be part of this peace effort and build a modern Middle East. Later that night, the foreign minister went to dinner at the Israeli ambassador's residence. They talked like old friends, with the Tunisian saying, we are out of the closet now.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 5 October carries an Arye Golan report from Washington in which Tunisia's Ben Yahya is asked when he will visit Jerusalem and when the first ambassador will be sent to Israel. In a recorded passage, Ben Yahya responds in English: "Well today I think we have started a process. I agreed with my friends the secretary and the foreign minister that this process is not the end of it, it is a stage by stage, and I hope this will start a new chemistry in the region."]

The ambassadors from Egypt, Morocco, and Qatar also attended the special dinner at the home of Ambassador Rabinovich.

The State Department meeting also included Secretary of State Christopher, who returns to the region next week. The day before, Foreign Minister Peres attended another major trilateral meeting at the White House with President Clinton and Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan. When Secretary Christopher returns to the Middle East, the major focus will be on Syria, although Jordan and the Palestinian issues will not be neglected. Foreign Minister Peres said the difficulties with Syria cannot be minimized. In his words, there may be some leaders of Syria who did not notice the changes towards peace, and they can again employ their tanks and planes, so we must be careful.

Earlier in the day, during a speech in the National Press Club, Foreign Minister Peres said Hafiz al-Asad must compromise in order to have peace. He called al-Asad's demand for all of the Golan Heights only an opening position. He said both nations have their opening positions, but must refine them so agreement can be reached. [end recording]

Qatar has agreed in principle to establish diplomatic relations with Israel at the level of interests sections. Foreign Minister Peres made the proposal last night to the Qatari foreign minister. Israel has also proposed an exchange of interests sections with Bahrain, Oman, and other Gulf states. Qol Yisra'el's diplomatic reporter says the Israeli delegation which recently visited Bahrain raised the issue and gained the impression that the Government of Bahrain is interested in continuing with the contacts.

Labor Bureau, Knesset Caucus Endorse SHAS Agreement

TA0410162894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] About an hour ago, the Labor Bureau and Knesset caucus endorsed the coalition agreement with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] by a majority, with 55 voting for the agreement, 20 against, and three abstentions. Among those opposing the agreement were Justice Minister David Liba'i, Police Minister Moshe Shahal, and Knesset Members Hagay Merom, Avraham Burg, Ya'el Dayan, and Ori Or. Twenty participants demanded that the Labor Central Committee be convened to rule on the agreement with SHAS. [passage omitted]

In the meantime, a third petition against the Labor-SHAS agreement was filed today with the High Court of Justice. The petition was filed by the Movement for the Quality of Government, which claims that the agreement contradicts the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty. According to the movement, safeguarding religious legislation is a violation of democracy.

SHAS welcomes the Labor Bureau decision. Faction head Shlomo Benizri said that the two Labor banners of external and domestic peace have won the battle against those who tried to upset the people and the political scene.

Meretz faction head Ran Kohen said that Labor betrayed its promises to the voters regarding religious coercion and left Meretz in charge of opposing the agreement. Knesset Member Kohen added that in the coming week Meretz will make every effort to prevent the legislation from passing, while working to have SHAS join the coalition.

Rabbi's 'Ruling' Permits Killing of 'Goyim'

TA3009160494 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Itamar Eichner]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabbi 'Ido Elba, suspected spiritual leader of the Qiryat Arba' underground has ruled that "as long as the war still rages, it is a mitzvah to kill all goyim, even women and children."

This ruling is part of a halakic treatise written by the rabbi and disseminated with a limited number of copies among his disciples. MA'ARIV has received a copy of the tract. The Shin Bet also has a copy. The duty to kill women and children is explained in the following manner: "Even if they do not endanger their killers, they help the enemy continue the war."

Rabbi Elba, who heads a seminary in the Cave of the Patriarchs, has been under detention for more than three weeks. He is described as one of the major figures in the underground organization. Elba is suspected of planning to masquerade as an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer in order to steal ammunition. He is also suspected of having ordered gun silencers from Mikha'el Mor Yosef, a metal worker, with the intention of murdering Arabs.

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The halakic treatise was published one month after the massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs. The rabbi also stipulates that all Jews are duty-bound to wage war against Arabs who threaten to attack Jews, or even harm their property, if the property loss could lead to the abandonment of Jewish settlements.

The halakic dissertation entitled "Examination of the Rules for Killing a Goy," which is revealed here for the first time, is more than 19 pages long. In it, Rabbi Elba stresses that the tract is merely a halakic analysis designed for scholastic purposes and not for practical implementation. The rabbi notes in the introduction that his halakic conclusions were based on an earlier ruling by one of the greatest contemporary halakic scholars.

In his conclusions, the rabbi writes: "The injunctions 'thou shalt not kill' and 'whoever sheds the blood of man' do not apply to Jews killing gentiles." If the people thus decide, then it is a mitzvah to kill any goy who does not keep the commandments of the sons of Noah. In any event, the goy's Jewish killer should not be punished.

"It is a mitzvah to kill religious goyim whose religion contravenes the basic tenets of Judaism and the eternal truth of the Torah and who believe they must proselytize others, such as missionaries and Muslims who believe in Jihad. But only when Israel is strong," the rabbi writes.

Rabbi Elba also states that "a determined war against goyim who seek to physically attack Jews or harm their property to the extent that property damages could lead to the desertion of a Jewish settlement is a compulsory war that cannot be shirked even on Shabbat.... both the individual and the community are duty-bound to wage this war if there is a chance of emerging victorious; however, an individual does not have to risk his life if the public has not assumed its obligation to wage war.... everyone must do his best to save his people." [punctuation as published].

Kakh Leader Comments on Peace Talks, Territories

BR0410160294 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 4 Oct 94 p 12

[Report on interview with Baruch Marzel, leader of Israeli ultranationalist Kakh movement, by "a.s." at Tel Rumeida; date not given: "We Will Establish Greater Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hebron—[passage omitted] Judging from the way [Kakh leader] Baruch Marzel addressed the two young soldiers guarding the entrance to his small settlement, you are prompted to think that he is ungrateful, to say the least. "How dare you stop my guests? You are not obeying orders but implementing a political decision. I will telephone my attorney." Then he added: "This is not a democracy. It is a Bolshevik dictatorship. Even if it had a majority behind it, which it does not, a government that has decided to give away Golan, Judea, and Samaria has lost any legitimacy."

From his viewpoint, Baruch Marzel feels justified in complaining. The moment of truth is approaching for him and for other "rightists" like him who, pursuing the attractions of a radical and messianic nationalism, have settled in the Arab cities of the occupied territories. The peace agreement with the PLO conflicts with the policy of settlements. And within the Israeli Government Foreign Minister Peres is already saying clearly that the settlers must move out of the areas where elections for the Palestinian autonomous council are soon to take place.

Of American origins, like that other Baruch, Goldstein, who perpetrated the massacre at the Tomb of the Patriarchs, Marzel decided to move to Tel Rumeida with his wife and seven children because tradition has it that Hishai, the father of King David, is buried under the centuries-old olive trees overlooking the town. Another six families followed his example. The classic conclusion is drawn: "This is the land of our father, Abraham. If the Jews are not entitled to live in Hebron after 2,000 years of exile, they are not entitled to Tel Aviv either."

So he is preparing to fight. The flag of the Republic of Judea dominates the small living quarters of his camper, whose walls are covered in posters for the Third Temple. The flag is similar to the Israeli flag in every respect, except that to the left of the star of David it bears a lion cub, the symbol of the tribe of Judah. His policy and reasoning are simple: "Since the government does not have the right to give this land away, the Jews are entitled to establish their state on this land."

According to Baruch, a few million dollars are enough, and they virtually have this already, received from American and Israeli donors. At least 30,000 people are ready to come to the new state.

Dreams, delusions. Meanwhile reality presses. What will the settlers do when, in accordance with the agreements with the PLO, the army has to leave the populated areas where elections are to take place and redeploy elsewhere? "We can hold this town without a single soldier," Baruch said. "The Arabs respect us; we have taught them a lesson."

So they will not move. Heedless of the costs imposed by reasons of state, they are, rather, preparing to fight, he said, "using every legal means." Legal? What about the clandestine organization that wanted to massacre Arabs and that was discovered at Qiryat 'Arba? "That is a joke," he replied. "The government needs to fabricate oppositionists by using its services. But they did not discover anything." [passage omitted]

Group Detained for Forming 'Illegal Organization'

TA0310182894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Oct 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli security agencies disclosed today that they recently detained some Kafr Qasim residents in the southern triangle on the charge of setting up an

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illegal organization with the aim of carrying out terrorist activities inside Israel. Security sources have reported that this group was led by a dentist from the village. The group also included an agricultural engineer and a physics expert who trained its members in the preparation of explosive devices.

Security Forces Arrest 30 Fatah, Hamas Members

TA0410160894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Early this morning, the security forces arrested 30 Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in the Ramallah area. They are suspected of being involved in hostile activity. This was reported by our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem.

At the Erez checkpoint this morning, an Arab youth attempted to attack an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier who was on duty at the site. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that the soldier overpowered the assailant and handed him over to the Israel Police station in Erez.

Arab Shot by Police at Jerusalem Roadblock

TA0110194994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Oct 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] An approximately 20-year-old Arab was wounded by police gunfire in Jerusalem tonight. Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that a van carrying several Arab youths ran a police roadblock on the Shu'fat road in northern Jerusalem after ramming the tail of a police van. Shots were fired at the fleeing van after the driver ignored the policemen's call to halt. The policemen, who later searched the area, found an abandoned car with traces of blood.

A wounded Arab, apparently the driver of the van, later arrived at the al-Maqasid Hospital in Jerusalem. He told doctors that he had fled a police roadblock because he does not have a driver's license and an identity card. After receiving first aid, the wounded man fled from the hospital.

Our correspondent notes that a search of the abandoned car revealed a leaflet signed by the Party for the Liberation of Jerusalem, a body opposed to Israeli state-financed education in East Jerusalem.

Police and Border Police are still searching for the escaped suspects.

IDF Kills Arab in Hebron After Attempted Stabbing

TA0510101594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 5 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] shot dead an Arab youth in the center of Hebron after he tried to stab a soldier. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the IDF imposed a curfew on the center of Hebron.

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Prince Hasan Addresses UN General Assembly

JN0410200094 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Oct 94

[Speech by Crown Prince Hasan at the UN General Assembly in New York on 4 October—recorded, in English]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. President, Secretary General, ladies and gentlemen;

It is my pleasure at the outset to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election, and to wish you and the members of the Bureau every success in the discharge of your duties.

Your election is a mark of the confidence and high regard in which both you and your country are held by the international community. Your wisdom and your forbearance will be crucial to the successful outcome of the current session. I would like to express deep appreciation for the exemplary manner in which your predecessor conducted the work of the assembly during his tenure last year. And I also wish to express my gratitude to the Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali for his tireless efforts to enhance the organization's ability to meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving world. It is gratifying to observe that the membership of the United Nations now encompasses several recently independent states. We share bonds of religious and cultural affinity with some; we share friendships and mutual respect with all.

We hope that the principle of universality, which has always been the cornerstone of the United Nations, will soon encompass the remaining peoples and regions so that this organization can truly represent the collective conscience of mankind.

Mr. President: It is, I believe, fitting to extend heartfelt congratulations to President Nelson Mandela, to Vice President Frederik de Klerk, and to the people of South Africa. They have, together established a new order in their country—one founded on justice and equality. The world rejoices at the return of South Africa to the fold of the international community of nations. The South African people have proved that peace is always possible so long as all are given the chance to participate in its building. This is a theme that bears consideration. As we approach a landmark in the history of the United Nations, the 50th anniversary of its foundation, it is appropriate to look forward, rather than back, to take stock of things to come, rather than things past. It is appropriate to consider the shape that our global order is taking.

South Africa offers a new paradigm, a fresh vision for a changing world. It shows us that a new order must have room for everyone. We must be able to listen to all voices, to the weak and the powerful alike. A new order must be inclusive, and must actively encourage participation at every level. For, in our evermore interdependent world, the future of one is the future of all.

This, I believe, goes to the very heart of global peace. We are called upon then to articulate a new approach. We must protect the rule of law. But, we must go further and ensure that democracy, pluralism, and respect for human rights comes to govern the life of nations. We must evolve new procedures of cooperation, communication, and accommodation. We must promote social responsibility, national commitment, and international obligations.

Nations must learn to coexist with their neighbors, but more than this, they must learn to work willingly together as partners in the enterprise of peace. Such a transformation is taking place in the Middle East. My region has been synonymous with conflict and war for decades. At last, we have an historic opportunity to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and to fashion, in its place, a new commonwealth of peace, hope, and participation for all.

The question of Palestine has been Jordan's main concern; family ties, geographic contiguity, and shared history and traditions ensured that this is so. Over the years, Jordan has extended support and encouragement to our Palestinian brethren. Our contributions and sacrifices to the Palestinian cause from 1948 onwards have been widely acknowledged. My country has received successive waves of refugees and returnees at a huge cost to our economy, imposing an impossible burden on our limited resources, yet, we remain committed to our democratization process, to the protection of civil liberties and human rights, and to the provision of decent living conditions and services for all our citizens. Underlying this commitment is our belief that broad base popular involvement in a civil society is fundamental to its health. This is why Jordan has been able to waiver the ravages of war to survive the long years of turmoil in our region.

Mr. President, if Jordan has been on the frontline of war, so too has it been on the frontline of peace. In those well-known words of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, which my country helped to draft, Jordan has always worked steadfastly for a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. We promoted the geneses of the current process with the Madrid conference of 1991 when the Israeli Government of the day refused to negotiate with the PLO. Jordan stepped into the breach helping the Palestinians to assume their proper role by providing an umbrella for their participation. Now, the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, are negotiating directly with Israel. They are installed in Gaza and Jericho, and conduct their affairs as they see fit. Their destiny is at last in their own hands. Jordan welcomes these developments and will continue to do everything in its power to ensure the success of Palestinian autonomy arrangements.

On the Jordanian-Israeli track, our common agenda has paved the way for us to agree upon modalities in areas such as water, the environment, energy, territory, borders, and regional security. These agreements resulted in the meeting on July 25th, 1994 between His Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister Rabin of Israel, at which they signed the Washington Declaration.

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This historic document ended the state of war between Jordan and Israel. I, myself, have just held constructive talks with President Clinton and Foreign Minister Peres, the goal of which is to build a framework of trilateral development as well as an economic equilibrium in the region, and to maintain the momentum towards peace.

Jordan and Israel are engaged in substantive talks, seeking just and mutually agreeable solutions to the outstanding issues listed in our common agenda. Our aim is to conclude a treaty of peace based on solid grounds that can withstand the winds of change. Such a treaty, we believe, will delineate our rights and duties under conditions of peace. It will open the door to cooperation at the regional level, so that the benefits of peace may be enjoyed by our peoples.

It has always been Jordan's vision that the Middle East, cradle of civilization and birthplace of the three great monotheistic religions, should be a region of cultural tolerance and mutual interdependence.

Important as our bilateral talks with Israel may be, we are keenly aware that no two nations stand alone. Our aim remains a comprehensive peace. Many of the issues we are currently addressing defy the confines of bilateralism and require regional and international participation. One such issue concerns the spiritual significance of the city of Jerusalem. For believers in the three great monotheistic faiths, Jerusalem must be the ultimate symbol of peace and its glorious manifestation.

A final settlement on the political and administrative status of the city, however, will occur in negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis. Any arrangement reached must serve the needs of the millions of followers of Islam, Christianity, and Judaism.

The economic dimension of peace is likewise a transnational concern. The economies of the Middle East have been shattered by the conflict. They must be revived if peace is to take root on the ground. Access to more equitable opportunities for economic growth will be vital. International debt relief and vital strategies should be planned, encompassing improved concessionary terms by the Clubs of Paris and London.

But the states of the region must also play their part. Restrictions on trade should be relaxed. We must develop a non-discriminatory approach to sustainable development and economic well-being. We hope that the Middle East-North Africa economic summit of Casablanca will build on the achievements of the regional economic development working group and prove a useful forum to explore the potential partnership between governments, private businesses, and international financial institutions, for this partnership surely holds the key to the economic future of the region.

Mr. President: International changes brought by the end of the Cold War have affected the political situation in the Middle East, as elsewhere. The transformation of world power politics has been accompanied by a shift in attitudes, modifying the cost benefit calculus of regional states. National strategic objectives can no longer be sought at the cost of others in a supposedly zero-sum game. In the context of a regional security regime, the size, the role, and the function of the armed forces in individual states of the region are likely to undergo radical changes. These will favor peace-keeping functions, allowing scarce resources to be released for development needs. In this context, Jordan fully supports the five dimensions of world peace and security outlined by the secretary general. I would like to add that Jordan supports the ongoing effort to streamline the UN, and fully endorses the attempt to increase the number of permanent members on the security Council. We also support the U.S. proposal that peacekeeping operations be strengthened by additional personnel, more effective field capabilities, greater cooperation between the United Nations and participating countries, and more united approach to training. Here again, Jordan is at the forefront of change. Our Armed Forces as peacekeepers under the United Nations command as far afield as Georgia, Angola, and the former Yugoslavia value the opportunity to take part in these missions, for in the very real sense, they allow us to participate in the unfolding world order. Jordan is proud to be involved in shaping global security arrangements.

As the peace process develops, it will be necessary to promote a common regional identity and a shared regional vision. All the Middle East must contribute to the articulation of this vision. The key again, Mr. President, is participation. If the countries and peoples of the region have a say in shaping its future, they will have a stake in its success. And success will accordingly be all the more likely, for the diversity of our region is a positive asset that we must learn to use creatively. We will inevitably differ on certain issues, just as we will agree on other issues. But we must be able to discuss our views in the knowledge that they will be heard, for honest communication is the basis of genuine involvement in any joint enterprise. In this spirit, Jordan feels honor-bound to register its concern over threats to the process of global reconciliation. Inertia must not be allowed to dominate the conduct of world affairs. Deep-seated conflicts will not disappear by themselves. We urge the international community of states to take swift action to facilitate their resolution.

One glaring example, Mr. President, is the ongoing situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The appalling practice of ethnic cleansing and genocide continue even as we speak. My country abhors these atrocities. Jordan supports all the international community's effort to end this tragic and wasteful conflict. And we have taken positive steps to alleviate the hardship it has caused. Jordan has joined the Nonaligned Movement's task force in Bosnia. Our soldiers who form the second largest contingent of the United Nations peacekeeping effort in the Balkans are engaged in both humanitarian relief and peacekeeping duties. Jordan has supported the Vienna and Washington agreements to establish a federation between the Muslims and Croats of Bosnia, and has welcomed the peace plan advanced by the

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contact group supported by the G-7 summit in Naples. The Serbian challenge to the plan in the face of Muslim and Croat acceptance is cause for deep disappointment.

Turning now to the situation in the Gulf, Mr. President, the importance of stability and security cannot be overstated. International norms must be observed. The territorial integrity of all states must be preserved. Their sovereignty and political independence must be upheld on the basis of noninterference in their internal affairs. My country also wishes to reiterate its serious concern for the plight of the people of Iraq, where living conditions are deteriorating rapidly. We intend to do our utmost to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people, so far as it is consistent with the provisions of United Nations resolutions.

Mr. President: The distorted image of Islam remains a cause of grave concern. The attention of this body should be turned to the spreading of Islamophobia, or hate for Muslims. This phenomenon occurs in all manner of ways, from the purely verbal to the bluntly physical. Its proponents deal in inflammatory rhetoric. They preach the inevitability of cultural apocalypse, tarring all Muslims with the brush of fanatical extremism. They ignore the fact that Islam is a broad and adaptable concept and institution. One billion Muslims now live on this earth, as such Islam encompasses all shades of political opinion, different patterns of theological thought, and countless varieties of human experience. Jordan urges members states to join forces in bringing about a better understanding of Islam as a religion, as culture, and civilization.

The expression of anti-Muslim sentiment and other manifestations of Islamophobia should be monitored and combated by educational campaigns, cultural exchanges, and similar endeavors. We have always advocated an interfaith dialogue as the surest way to combat bigotry and stereotyping.

Mr. President, more than a decade ago now, I stood before this assembly and called, on behalf of my country, for a new international humanitarian order. That led to the establishment of the independent commission on international humanitarian issues. The commission was charged with investigating a wide range of pressing humanitarian issues. It performed its duties well, producing a series of reports that made clear this tale of the impending global humanitarian disaster. It would be comforting to stand before this assembly today and tell you that its work has made a significant difference. It would be comforting, but it would not be true. A new international humanitarian order has not come into being. The powerless remained powerless. The dispossessed have not recovered their birthrights. There are more refugees, more street children, more innocent victims of conflict than ever before. What is worse, these issues are still addressed in a piecemeal fashion. It is often said that one should not try to treat a mass of symptoms, but to seek out root causes. Remarkably, it sometimes seems that far from seeking causes, we are doing our best to ignore the symptoms. Today, I have tried to address causes. I have spoken of the fundamental need for participation at all levels. I have put before you a vision for a global order characterized by partnership and communication, tolerance, and trust. In some places, this vision is on the road to realization, in others, it has seldom been further. The alternatives are very clear Mr. President, and the choice is ours.

Mr. President, Secretary General, ladies and gentlemen, I pledge my country's full support to this organization, for as we move toward the 21st century, and as the organization moves toward its 50th anniversary, the ideal that inspired the Charter of the United Nations has never been more important. Thank you.

Al-'Anani: Hasan's Visit to U.S. 'Very Successful'

JN0410154094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 4 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani by correspondent Suhayl Khuri in Washington on 3 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Khuri] Mr. Information Minister, how would you describe the atmosphere of the meeting at the White House?

[Al-'Anani] The atmosphere of the meeting was very, very warm. President Clinton, U.S. Vice President Al Gore, Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and the entire U.S. team warmly welcomed His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan. There was a clear and great response to Jordan's development needs and to the Jordanian stand on the process to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East.

I think the results reached were extremely successful due to extensive preparations. I also believe that the peace we in Jordan are seeking will prove to be beneficial to Jordan's economy and to the entire region, God willing.

We believe there was a clear acknowledgment of the Jordanian role and its regional importance. This was very clearly evident from the way we were received and from the great importance given to the Jordanian and Israeli delegations when they met at the White House.

The first meeting was a tripartite meeting between President Clinton, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. At the end of the meeting, his highness the crown prince met separately with President Clinton and gave him a message from His Majesty King Husayn. President Clinton showed great understanding of the Jordanian role and of the prerequisites for peace, which Jordan needs if it is to play its role in the best possible manner to serve the peace process and the region's future, God willing.

[Khuri] Dr. Jawad al-'Anani. When do you expect negotiations to resume?

[Al-'Anani] As you know, two rounds of negotiations have been scheduled. The first round will be held in Elat on Monday, 10 October, and is expected to last four days. A second four-day round of negotiations will be held on the

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Jordanian side the following week. God willing, there will be a clear development in terms of Jordan's exercise of sovereignty over its territories and the restoration of its rights to water. Moreover, there are some other issues related to setting up projects—whether in al-'Aqabah or in terms of opening the northern crossing point near al-Shaykh Husayn bridge—for the good of the region and in order to consecrate the peace process.

It is also clear that we managed to convince the U.S. side of the need to establish a development bank in the Middle East. We hope that Jordan will play an effective role in this bank in order to provide regional projects with necessary funds. We also received a great response to setting up a Jordanian project that deals with developing the Jordan Valley Rift, especially the channel between the two seas [the Dead Sea and the Red Sea]. Furthermore, it was agreed to begin preparing studies after Jordan restores its water rights to provide the amounts of water needed in the Middle East region. The cost for water projects needed in the region is estimated at about $25 billion. We asked the U.S. side to provide funding for these projects. As you know, water is the most important resource in in the region for the sake of continued development in the future.

Therefore, I can say that the peace process, in terms of its political and economic aspects, is proceeding based on a full recognition of Jordan's importance, its needs, and its role. Within this framework, I believe that the visit was very successful and that God willing, negotiations between Jordan and Israel will lead to the restoration of Jordanian rights.

[Khuri] We would like to thank Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of information and member of the delegation accompanying His Highness Crown Prince Hasan.

[Al-'Anani] You are welcome.

Official Cited on Dropping Boycott for Land Pledge

NC0410121894 Paris AFP in English 1144 GMT 4 Oct 94

[By Randa Habib]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman, Oct 4 (AFP)—Jordan has effectively dropped its economic boycott of Israel in exchange for an Israeli pledge to hand back land it has occupied for decades, a senior official told AFP Tuesday [4 October].

"The clear and straightforward recognition by Israel that it is occupying Jordanian territory and that it is ready to withdraw encouraged Amman to discuss economic projects with Israel," the official said.

"To agree joint projects with Israel clearly signifies that Jordan is no longer applying the boycott against this country," the official added, asking to remain anonymous. [passage omitted]

Jordanian officials said the Israeli pledge over the border dispute came at a surprise summit in 'Aqabah on Thursday between King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Reports in Amman had said an Israeli withdrawal would be announced at the White House meeting, but Israel has not officially confirmed any pledge to hand back the lands and the lack of any statement disappointed many Jordanians.

The Jordanian official said "priority will be given to the technical details to allow us to finalise the question of an Israeli withdrawal, as well as water sharing and security" at the bilateral talks to be held from October 10-20. [passage omitted]

U.S. 'Pressure' on Arabs To Lift Boycott Criticized

JN0210151894 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Oct 94 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Pressure in One Direction"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The decision adopted by the Gulf Cooperation Council states in New York the day before yesterday to lift the secondary and tertiary boycott of Israel reflects the degree of apprehension in Arab solidarity within the framework of the Arab League. It also reflects the powerful U.S. pressure being employed on the Arabs. It is also part of a long series of measures to prove Arab goodwill and credibility in the effort to help the Madrid process reach the aspired peace.

During the current peace process, the Jordanian position on lifting the boycott of Israel insists that any decision on this subject should be an Arab decision made by the Arab League. This decision should be part of the comprehensive peace and should come in return for Israel's full commitment to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy. It should also be linked to the lifting of the Israeli boycott of Arabs in Palestine.

It is clear that the lifting of the Arab boycott of Israel is part of the Israeli gains from peace on the regional level and that it falls within the framework of multilateral negotiations that should be realized after Israel fulfills its peace obligations, including withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories in accordance with international legitimacy and within the framework of bilateral negotiations. However, Israel is still occupying the territories and has not yet signed any peace treaty with any Arab parties to the Madrid process. It has not signed a treaty precisely because it is still occupying lands in spite of the many substantial Arab signs that prove the honesty of Arab peace efforts. These efforts are represented by putting an end to the state of war, the recognition of Israel and its security concerns, and the Arab efforts toward coexistence and discarding the results of war.

Therefore, the unprecedented U.S. pressure placed on the Arab parties to snatch the dividends of peace from them in Israel's favor, without similar pressure on Tel Aviv to meet its peace obligations, has become pressure in one direction that does not fall in line with the role of the honest broker that Washington is supposed to playing in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

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It is time for Washington to employ pressure in the other direction, and it is time for the Arab parties to the peace process to stop unilaterally proving their good intentions.

Columnist Analyzes GCC States' Boycott Decision

JN0310133594 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Oct 94 p 24

["Everyday" column by Tariq Masarwah: "Paying Bills to the United States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] What remains is for Israel to lift the economic boycott imposed on the occupied territories and their products. What remains for Israel to treat Palestinians in the Galilee, the Triangle, and Negev, who hold its citizenship, in a way that is in harmony with recognized human rights, and to stop usurping their agricultural lands, and turning the people into cheap or unemployed workers.

The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] has lifted the secondary and tertiary boycott pursuant to a request from the United States, not because Israel has responded to the peace calls or provided anything for peace. The story is still that of talking and shaking hands. This is despite the fact that all sides know that the Arab boycott, with all its forms and articles, is an Arab decision which the Arab League has neither discussed nor decided to lift any part of.

A careful reading of what has so far been achieved in the peace process will show us that all the Arabs do is pay bills to the United States, and that the Israeli party is not ready to deal with the word "withdrawal," or to recognize any of the Arab rights. The U.S. demands have not stopped since the Madrid conference. The last of these demands was the "orders" issued by the venerable woman, head of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations, to prevent the Arabs from raising any of the issues that are being discussed at the negotiations, at the UN General Assembly session. This is an unprecedented approach. It did not exist even during the days of British or French colonialism. First and foremost, the Arab boycott is a form of rejecting occupation. Moreover, it is a decision related to sovereignty. The United States has been boycotting Cuba for 30 years, boycotting Vietnam since the 1975 agreement, boycotting Iraq and forcing the world to boycott it, and boycotting North Korea and forcing the world to boycott it. Despite this, no one has ever told the United States that boycotts conflict with the peace process, with peace itself, with preparations for peace, or with the negotiations on peace.

The GCC can make whatever decisions it wants as long as the Arabs have parted company. However, the boycott decision and the deviation from Arab consensus will continue to be in the service of the United States and its companies, and not an Arab contribution toward the success of the peace process.

King Reiterates Jerusalem Stand to PLA Commander

JN0410194194 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His majesty the king has said Jordan has not spared any effort to extend support for Palestinians and defend their just cause and legitimate rights.

His majesty also reiterated that Jordan's historic role to safeguard the Arab and Islamic face of holy shrines in Palestine and Jerusalem was an embodiment of the kingdom's obligations toward the Arab nation and the Islamic faith.

His majesty's remarks were contained in a reply message to the commander of the Palestine Liberation Army's [PLA] Badr Forces in Jordan Brigadier General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahim Qudsiyah. The general had sent a message expressing his profound appreciation to his majesty for instructing the government to offer all assistance to Palestinians to help them regain their rights on their national soil.

New Trade Agreement With Morocco Signed

JN0410154694 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] Jordan and Morocco signed a new trade agreement expected to enhance commercial exchange between the two countries. The agreement provides custom exemptions for both countries, allows for the holding of trade fairs and an annual exchange of trade delegations.

The agreement was signed in Amman by Jordan's Minister of Trade and Industry Rima Khalaf and her Moroccan counterpart, Driss Jattou. It will supersede one signed between the two countries in 1978. [passage omitted]

Morocco To Normalize Israeli Ties After Jordan, Syria

JN0510101094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Oct 94 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The opening of an Israeli liaison bureau in Rabat and a Moroccan bureau in Tel Aviv does not mean Morocco is prepared to normalize trade relations with the Jewish state, said Driss Jattou, Moroccan minister of trade and industry.

Morocco, he said, is ready for normalization with Israel but will only follow suit after Jordan, Syria and the Palestinians. "We are pushing for that," Mr. Jattou added.

"The liaison bureau is a step towards an embassy, and a preparation for peace, but Morocco will not take any step that would weaken peace in the region."

Mr. Jattou's comments follow visits to Jordan and Iraq this week that sought to strengthen trade relations with both countries and promote the coming Casablanca economic summit.

A lasting peace, he said, includes the movement of goods and people across borders, as well as a solution for Iraq and neighbouring countries.

"We could see tremendous development in this region," Mr. Jattou said, "but we must find a solution to Iraq."

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Morocco is committed to these ends, and will pursue them by strengthening relations with other Arab countries, he said.

The Casablanca summit, scheduled to convene at the end of the month, will further these goals by initiating discussions on an economic strategy for the region, and bringing together for the first time public and private entities to promote regional development.

Mr. Jattou's visit to Jordan resulted in the signing of a new Jordanian-Moroccan trade agreement which he hopes will encourage increased trade.

"Quite frankly," he said, "our level of trade is an embarrassing for me, considering King Hassan's friendly relations with the Kingdom."

The volume of trade for both countries in past years has been insignificant. Morocco's volume of trade with Jordan in 1993 was a scant $6 million, while Jordan's volume of trade with Morocco for the first half of 1994 only amounted to JD 500,000.

"We can increase our trade with this country 10 to 100 per cent," he said.

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Buwayz Views Status of Peace Talks, Syria Track

MM0410142094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Oct 94 p 2

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by Raghidah Dirgham in New York; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] [Dirgham] You have met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. What do the Americans tell you about the Lebanese negotiation track and its link to or independence from the Syrian track?

[Buwayz] The U.S. Administration officials are convinced of the importance of the Lebanese track. That is what we emphatically heard from them all. They say that the fact that other files, including the Syria file, are discussed before the Lebanese file has no bearing whatsoever on the importance of the Lebanese file. They are convinced that resolution of the Syrian file would reflect positively on all Arab tracks, especially the Lebanese track. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] You mean that the Lebanese track will be activated after the features of the Syrian track become clear, not before.

[Buwayz] Of course, of course, at least after the basis becomes clear or after the broad lines of the Syrian track become clear. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] What do the Syrians tell you? How do they discuss the Lebanese issue with the Israelis?

[Buwayz] Quite simply, they do not discuss the Lebanese issue with the Israelis. The Syrians are currently not holding direct talks with the Israels. They are talking through the Americans and, in so doing, they do not discuss Lebanese issues. They might discuss joint issues which are basically Arab issues. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] Is there some kind of agreed Israeli-Syrian plan, blessed by the United States, to test peace in Lebanon for two or three years while the situation remains as it is, including the security belt?

[Buwayz] Not at all. That is not on. I simply believe that the negotiations between us and Israel have reached a point where Israel is asking Lebanon to disband the resistance first before it will begin to discuss withdrawal from Lebanon, whereas Lebanon sees the resistance as a result of the occupation and it cannot be separated, discussed, or stopped before the withdrawal principle is accepted. As far as Lebanon is concerned there is a direct link between withdrawal and the resistance.

[Dirgham] The Israelis claim that there is no problem regarding the principle of withdrawal in the sense that they do not covet an inch of Lebanese territory.

[Buwayz] That is a generalization which has to be explained at the negotiating table. We do not believe that the Israeli vocabulary lacks the words that would confirm Israel's commitment to full withdrawal from Lebanese territory, behind the internationally recognized borders, to enable the Lebanese Government to impose its authority with its own force. We mean what we say. We mean that our target is full not partial withdrawal. It should be withdrawal beyond marked, known, and non-negotiable borders, and it should be a withdrawal in the interest of the Lebanese state not in the interest of the southern militia whose nationality is Lebanese but whose decisions are made in Israel. There is a big difference between principled talk and political talk. So far, Israel has not committed itself clearly to a withdrawal mechanism that would enable us to sit around a table to program it along with the programing of the security requirements.

[Dirgham] What do you think of what Rabin said about how Israel sees the continuing Syrian presence in Lebanon?

[Buwayz] I have already previously given a very clear view. I said that that was a matter of Lebanese sovereignty, that it was not at all up to Rabin, and that the presence of the Syrian Army on Lebanese territory was a matter decided by the Lebanese and Syrian governments and had nothing to do with Rabin. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] Can Lebanon tackle the question of disarming Hizballah on its own?

[Buwayz] The question of Hizballah will disappear when the Israeli occupation of the south disappears. Before we reverse roles and before we make such assumptions, why not ask why the resistance is there? The resistance is not anyone's hobby in Lebanon. Nobody wants to die for nothing. The resistance is the result of oppression and occupation in the south. Why not discuss the elimination of the cause in order to be able to eliminate the results?

[Dirgham] Because we are talking about sovereignty and the imposition of sovereignty. One view is that if Lebanon has sovereignty then it should be everywhere.

[Buwayz] That is why this matter is directly linked to the question of withdrawal.

[Dirgham] How do you view the link between dissolving the South Lebanese Army and disarming Hizballah? What link do you see between the two? Are they linked?

[Buwayz] As far as we are concerned, there is no link whatsoever. The question of the resistance in the south is linked to the withdrawal issue. Once the withdrawal is completed, the question of the militia could later be addressed from a Lebanese angle, just as a number of past militias were tackled. Lebanon has sufficient experience on the matter of dissolving militias. [passage omitted]

Al-Hariri Reiterates Coordination With Syria

NC0510073094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri addressed a conference on development and reconstruction in al-Dubayyah yesterday. He reiterated Lebanon's stance on the peace process, saying Lebanon and Syria have opted for a fair and comprehensive solution and participated together in the Madrid conference on clear

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and specific bases from which they will not retreat—no matter what the pressure or temptation. He said: Our fate is to remain together, to agree together and to reject together, and to resist separate and unilateral solutions together. He stressed: The continuing political pressure to induce us to give in and go alone, away from sister Syria, will not succeed, because we do not believe in a separate settlement.

Security Report Gives Round-Up of Developments

NC0210175194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation troops escalated their aggression this afternoon, shelling with artillery several villages in al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah. Meanwhile, the men of the resistance carried out three operations against the occupation positions and patrols inside the occupied border strip this afternoon.

As of 1515 today, the occupation artillery in Qal'at al-Sahqif bombarded the area of Hima al-Run and the outskirts of Arnun and Yuhmur. Bombardment involving various caliber, particularly 155-mm field artillery and 120- and 82-mm mortars, was soon extended to cover the Litani River basin and the peripheries of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah.

At 1545, the bombardment reached Mazra'at al-Hamra' as well, focusing on Kafr Tibnit, the area surrounding the Lebanese Army's deserted barracks in al-Nabatiyah, and al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa. The bombardment continued in a concentrated manner until 1630, when it was later expanded to reach the peripheries of Kafr Rumman, the eastern quarters of al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, Hayy al-Maslakh, Jabal al-Rafi', and al-Wadi al-Akhdar in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

At 1645, enemy helicopters raked with 800-mm heavy caliber machine guns the Litani River basin and the outskirts of Jarju', 'Arab Salim, Jabal al-Rafi', and al-Wadi al-Akhdar. Citizens Husayn al-Dibis and Halimah Sharf-al-Din were wounded during the bombardment of Kafr Tibnit. They were taken to the government hospital in al-Nabatiyah and were later released after being treated for slight wounds to the hand.

The bombardment of al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah villages was concentrated and violent. It gradually abated at 1700 and was replaced by sniping. A state of guarded calm later prevailed in the villages that were bombarded throughout the afternoon.

According to security sources in the south, the men of the resistance this afternoon attacked an Israeli patrol as it was passing along the Qal'at al-Shaqif road. They also attacked another patrol along the al-Zaffatah road inside the occupied strip and engaged its members in a fight with machine guns and rocket shells.

The Islamic Resistance which claimed responsibility for the two operations talked about a third attack its men launched against a South Lebanese Army patrol along the road to Saydun. Casualties among the patrol members have not been determined due to the security cordon thrown around the region.

Israeli Overnight Mock Raids, Shelling Reported

NC0510073194 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 5 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night Israeli military aircraft staged mock raids over the areas of al-Nabatiyah, Iqlim al-Tuffah, and east Sidon, firing thermal balloons and flares. Earlier in the evening the Israeli forces bombarded the areas of al-Luwayzah, the outskirts of Jarju', the course of the al-Tasah stream, and Jabal al-Rafi' from their positions in al-Zaffatah.

Correction to Cabinet Approves Draft Budget

NC2909132394

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Cabinet Approves Draft Budget for 1995," published in the 29 September Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 42:

Column two, first paragraph, first sentence, make read: ...stands at 5.5 trillion Lebanese pounds... (changing billion to "trillion").

Column two, first paragraph, second sentence, make read: ...estimated at 3.15 trillion pounds, representing a... (changing billion to "trillion").

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'Text' of al-Shar' UN General Assembly Speech

JN0410112094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 3 Oct 94

["Text" of address by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to the 49th session of the UN General Assembly in New York on 3 October—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. President: I am pleased to congratulate you on your election as president of the 49th session of the UN General Assembly and express appreciation for the great responsibilities which you will be shouldering along with the secretary general in preparations for the United Nations 50th anniversary. I would also like to take this opportunity to praise in the name of my country, Syria, Africa's long and arduous struggle against the regime of racial segregation in South Africa—a struggle which has finally been crowned with the establishment of the democratic, united, and nonracial Republic of South Africa. It is a triumph not only for Africa but also for humanity at large and the international community, especially for the United Nations, given the fact that it has been one of its most importance achievements.

This great achievement will continue to be a source of inspiration and optimism for all of us, knowing that all forms of racism are bound to disappear.

The UN's 50th anniversary celebrations will raise substantive questions on its role and achievements and the obstacles it faced and is still facing. However, we believe that the most important question will deal with reforming the United Nations and restructuring it to be more democratic and therefore more capable of responding to the major international changes, especially those that followed the end of the Cold War.

It seems that none of the member states objects in principle to introducing reforms to the United Nations, including the expansion of the Security Council membership. However, what might take years to realize an agreement on the nature of the required reforms and the criteria of accepting new Security Council members, and last but not the least on the veto right—whether it is to be expanded or expunged from the Charter.

Over two-thirds of the current UN members did not contribute to drafting the UN Charter because they were under the colonialist yoke. Other states were partitioned after their independence during the Cold War, one of the most important arenas of which was the United Nations itself. In this context, the developing countries present the following question:

If colonialism has disappeared, never to return, and since the Cold War has truly ended, are there any other reasons preventing effective contributions by the developing countries toward restructuring the United Nations and taking their democratic place in the Security Council?

In an case, we hope the answer will not be negative and the Cold War will not be continued in new forms and under various pretext. This serves the interests of no one and does not promote any useful end in either the short or long runs. Today's world from the north to the south and from the east to the west is facing unprecedented challenges which need the cooperation of all member states to confront—challenges that seem small at the beginning but which might expand and spread like an epidemic. In many continents, dozens of civil wars were conceived in the womb of the Cold War. The causes of these wars are numerous—nationalistic, ethnic, tribal, religious. The victims of these wars are in the hundreds of thousands. The refugees and displaced persons created by these wars are estimated at tens of millions. Those who live under the poverty line today are one-fifth of the population of the globe, ninety percent of whom live in the developing countries.

What causes astonishment and consternation is the phenomenon of organized crime in states that had never heard of it before. This organized crime has its own international networks and secret bodies which are estimated to be in the thousands and can violate the most strict of laws by exploiting every illegal means, including the smuggling of nuclear byproducts and scientific designs.

The indispensable international cooperation to confront all these challenges in their various forms cannot realize the desired results if certain major parties to this cooperation are prompted by the spirit of the cold war to rake up the past instead of looking forward to the future, or if they base their moves on racist ground or if they are prompted by propagandistic or election considerations. It is no exaggeration to say that these factors and subjective motives have been playing a role in hindering international efforts to deal with a number of serious crises, especially those where human suffering has exceeded the limits of imagination and description, such as the situation in Bosnia, Somalia, and Rwanda, let alone Afghanistan where the shortsightedness of certain warring parties has overcome all wisdom and perspicacity.

But, on the other hand, we should refer to the U.S. decision to have political dialogue with Democratic Korea and Cuba rather than continuing the policy of confrontation with them. These are positive steps in the right direction, and we hope they will continue and expand to deal with other issues, topped by the Lockerbie crisis with Libya in a manner that makes political dialogue the most appropriate option in resolving crisis between states.

In this context, we hope that a satisfactory solution will be reached between the United Arab Emirates and Iran to the islands problem through friendly dialogue in a manner that preserves rights and enhances friendly relations between the two neighboring countries.

Mr. President, Syria was among the first Middle East countries to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] in 1968, based on its conviction that the acquisition of this lethal weapon by any country of our very sensitive region will constitute a source of concern not only to the peoples of the region but to the whole world. My country's calculations then have been that its early signing of the

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treaty would urge Israel to sign it sooner or later and would stop its obsession to have nuclear weapons. Later, it was clear that our calculations have, regrettably, not been right. So far, Israel has not joined the treaty and has not agreed to place its nuclear facilities under international supervision.

Once again, and at a time when the conference on banning chemical weapons was held in Paris in January 1989, Syria was among the first to call for making the Middle East a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction—the nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons—within the UN framework, but Israel did not respond to that call or to the calls made by the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], or the conferences of the Nonaligned Movement and the Islamic Conference Organization.

This subject has become very important and dangerous, especially in light of the current peace process in the Middle East. It is unacceptable to give a special or extraordinary condition to any party at the expense of another concerning a sensitive and crucial issues that concern regional security and should be dealt with equally and equitably.

The upcoming meeting of the member states to review the NPT, which expire next year, will be a unique chance to show the peaceful intentions of all countries of the region.

The admission of all Middle East states into the NPT constitutes a vital step toward changing the Middle East into a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction. In this context, the Syrian Arab Republic calls for Israel to join the NPT and to place its facilities under the IAEA so that the countries of the region will be able to extend the treaty.

Realizing this will be an important step to create an atmosphere of confidence that contributes to the building of peace and security in the Middle East.

Mr. President, three years have passed since the convocation of the Madrid conference, but a just and comprehensive peace has not been attained in the Middle East. This fact is not negated by some progress on some tracks.

Our region is the cradle of human civilization and divine religions, whose sons—one generation after another—confronted invaders. It is time for this region to enjoy peace and stability. This cannot be realized through partial solutions, crumbs of peace, or through agreements that undermine national dignity and relinquish the nation's interests.

Syria accepted the U.S. initiative, which pledged to work for just and comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of the international legitimacy and the Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and the land-for-peace formula, including a political solution to the national rights of the Palestinian people. Furthermore, the United States stressed that it does not accept the annexation of any part of the territories occupied in 1967 in line with its previous positions which rejected the application of the Israeli law on the Syrian Golan.

In light of the complications of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Arab parties' doubts about the Israeli intentions, Syria adopted two important decisions that complement each other. The first decision is to abide by coordination between Arab parties to the peace process, based on our conviction that the Arab parties will benefit from their solidarity and from Syria's position and its various capabilities. On the other hand, the comprehensive solution will be a guarantee for all when they respond to the peace requisites. The second decision is that peace be a strategic option in order not to deceive our people, and so that the others will know the reality of our intentions to behave accordingly. In this context, our belief was strong that these two important decisions would be in the interest of all parties to the peace process, and would facilitate the task of the U.S. and Russian cosponsors to realize full peace in the region in return for full withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967.

Regrettably however, the peace process did not continue on its right path to realize its required aim for many reasons. We do not see that it is beneficial to talk of this in detail, nor do we want, in our discussion of the current situation, to talk further about those who abandoned Arab coordination. We will only mention an important point revealed in their overt statements; namely, that they are now wondering about the benefits of their actions, unable to contribute toward establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

In fact, Israel's talk about the atmosphere of optimism over the great strides of the peace process is only true from its viewpoint because the agreements that have been realized so far serve only Israeli demands in terms of the land-for-peace formula. The Arab side, which signed these agreements with it, is still awaiting Israeli response to its demands.

The most salient aspect of the Syrian policy under President Hafiz al-Asad is the reconciliation of principles. In fact the principles that are not based on reality are bound to disappear. Likewise, living with the realities without adhering to principles will lead to retrogression.

Syria wants peace. It realizes that everyone has an interest in this peace. Syria also realizes that peace has its objective requirements and is prepared to meet these requirements on which an agreement is reached.

Syria means what it says and is committed to what it means. The land-for-peace formula must be implemented on both sides and the return of the entire Golan is not subject to compromise, unjustified delay, or a test of intentions that is unnecessary. Therefore, Syria supports genuine peace that could live and prosper without artificial obstacles or arbitrary conditions.

Overburdening the peace process will not help it, but it will endanger it. The peace process should not go outside its framework. Regrettably, Israel, thanks to its strong influence with the media, has succeeded in twisting facts and information to the extent that certain Western public opinion circles now believe that Syria used the Golan

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Heights to commit aggression against the Israelis and not vice versa. By turning the facts upside down, Israel's aim was to justify its occupation of the Golan and remain there under security pretexts.

The armed confrontations that occurred between Syria and Israel between 1949 and 1967 were started by Israel and not by the Syrian side. A reading of the UN records and Security Council resolutions issued during that period affirms beyond the shadow of a doubt that Israel was held responsible for opening fire with the aim of expelling the Syrian farmers from their land and preventing them from reaping their crops. It was natural that, each time, the Syrians had to defend their land and people by returning fire.

The UN records also include memorandums by senior UN officers who were entrusted with observing the truce agreement between Syria and Israel during that period, including General Odd Bull [Norwegian general] and General (Karl Van Horne). They asserted that mountains and heights do not stand in the face of today's sophisticated weapons. Yet, the Galilee mountains, which are higher than the Golan, stand opposite the Golan Heights inside Israel.

In any case and whether or not the Israeli public opinion arrive at the facts from this information, the UN Charter stipulated a basic principle; namely the impermissibility of the acquisition of the territories of others by force. This principle has been confirmed by the numerous Security Council resolution; namely, that the current peace process cannot be complete without Israel's withdrawal from the entire Golan and southern Lebanon.

Mr. President, we believe in our just stand because we have rights that we cannot relinquish. As President Hafiz al-Asad said: Relinquishing any part of the homeland means relinquishing our homeland and free will.

We want a just peace that gives everyone their rights; a comprehensive peace for which the peoples of the region are aspiring and under which they enjoy security, stability, and prosperity.

Al-Asad Receives UK State Minister Douglas Hogg

JN0410161994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1300 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Douglas Hogg, British minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The meeting, which was held at the People's Palace, was attended by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Muhammad Khadr, Syria's ambassador to Britain; and Adrian Sindall, Britain's ambassador in Damascus.

Further on Meeting

JN0410170594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1300 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Douglas Hogg, British minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The meeting, which was held at the People's Palace, was attended by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Muhammad Khadr, Syria's ambassador to Britain; and Adrian John Sindall, Britain's ambassador in Damascus.

Conversation revolved around the Middle East peace process and its developments, as well as bilateral ties. During the meeting, Minister Hogg presented Britain's position on the question of Middle East peace which is based on Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and the implementation of UN [Security Council] Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

The president stressed that Syria adheres to the peace process and its objectives, noting that Britain and Europe can make a contribution to advance the peace process toward its desired objective.

During the meeting, the desire to improve bilateral ties was stressed.

Hogg: Relations 'Proceeding Very Well'

JN0410193094 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement to a Syrian Arab News Agency correspondent, Douglas Hogg, British minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, has said British-Syrian relations are proceeding very well. He said: During my meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, we stressed the desire to develop relations between our countries.

He added: During our discussion of the peace process, the president stressed that Syria adheres to a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Asked if Britain will play a new role to advance the Middle East peace process, Hogg said that the British role supports the U.S. efforts by conveying the views of the British Government to all parties, and this is the wish of the British Government.

Commentary Views Rabin Knesset Speech

JN0410163494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 4 Oct 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: In his speech to the Israeli Knesset, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin did not say anything new. Nor did he depart from the well-known position which Israel has been announcing throughout three years of peace talks. He did not voice readiness to make a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. What he said was only that Israel will not withdraw from a single inch of the Golan Heights without a full peace with Syria. According to Rabin, this full peace has four conditions; namely, the demarcation of borders, a timetable to implement a peace treaty, a three-year test period for normalization, and, finally, security arrangements. What has changed in the Israeli position? Where is the desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace that

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is based on the UN resolutions and the land-for-peace formula? Rabin's position remains unchanged. He refuses to implement the UN Security Council resolution that stipulates a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the entire Golan Heights to the 4 July 1967 borderlines.

The Israeli Government's position on the issue of complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights is neither new nor surprising. Israel is used to ignoring the UN resolutions and giving its own unfair decisions more power than that of the will of the world community. This applies now on the gimmick of the plebiscite over the Golan Heights; the results of that plebiscite will have the power of the binding law, even if they completely contradict all the resolutions of the highest world body, and, consequently, the basis of the peace process. If this is the case, then where is Israel's desire for peace, and where are the moves toward this peace? The answer to this question is very well known. However, it must be stressed that Israel is not the only side that can decide the future of the region; either a comprehensive peace or no peace, with all the threats to the region and the world entailed by the state of no peace. There is, first, the will of the Arabs and, particularly, the will of Syria, which Israel must take into consideration and view very seriously. The majority of Israeli rulers stated very clearly that peace in the region cannot be achieved unless it is achieved with Syria. Nor can Israel ignore the will of the world community, which aspires to achieve peace, because the world peace and guaranteeing the world's interests are at the heart of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The latest expression of this world desire emerged from the U.S. State Department in particular, when its spokesperson stated that the peace process and the desire to achieve progress in the negotiations between Syria and Israel are an important part of the goals of the U.S. dialogue with Syria. If we recall statements by U.S. President Bill Clinton—in which he voices conviction that Syria aspires for, and seeks to achieve peace, and in which he said he believes in the importance of Syria's position in the making of peace, and that there can be no peace without Syria—then one can truly indicate the party to which the U.S. efforts must be directed as they try to boost the peace efforts; that is, Israel. The basis for peace from the viewpoint of Syria and the international legitimacy must be nothing less than a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon, quickly and without delay, to the 4, July 1967 borderlines.

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Afghanistan

Islamic Unity Party Member on Internecine Strife

NC0310131894 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 21 Sep 94 p 12

[Interview with Hashem Lowlanji, member of the Central Council of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, Islamic Unity Party; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [ETTELA'AT] It was expected that after the victory of the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan, the aspirations of the Muslim people of that country would be realized. But unexpected and unfortunate conditions emerged. Could you please tell us your opinion on the current situation in Afghanistan?

[Lowlanji] Of course, there is no doubt that after victory every revolution faces misfortunes, especially the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan, which is the most strategic country in this region from the geopolitical point of view. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] It is true that civil war can be considered a dangerous misfortune, but what is the reason for the mojahedin's inability to attain success in grappling with this misfortune in the aftermath of victory?

[Lowlanji] The lack of a unified leadership and of national armed forces, the political and military intervention by foreign forces, and the powerlust and warmongering of individuals are the main reasons for the lack of success on the part of the Afghan mojahedin in their efforts to combat the misfortunes that befell them after attaining victory.

[ETTELA'AT] You have mentioned national armed forces. Afghanistan has always had regular armed forces. What happened that it no longer has one?

[Lowlanji] What you have said is correct. Afghanistan did have a regular army but certain factors resulted in its disbanding: First, Najibollah's treachery to the Afghan Armed Forces cannot be denied. Most of the soldiers and generals were Muslim and opposed the communist government. By enlisting nonmilitary personnel, Najibollah set up a separate militia. Thus the country's military power was divided into numerous groups instead of being under one centralized command.

Second, the Peshawar session, which elected a president to succeed Najibollah, was merely cosmetic. When Mojaddedi entered Kabul a month later as president, the Afghan generals had individually and independently affiliated themselves with various jehadi groups. The interim president tried to group them together but he did not succeed.

Third, the United Nations, which was the main role player in the transfer of power, protected Najibollah to the last and did not permit power to be handed over to the interim mojahedin government before the disbanding of the Armed Forces. When the UN emissary reached an impasse due to his incompetence, the jehadi groups entered Kabul and seized the barracks and all the government facilities, which undermined the central government and resulted in the various groups setting up their own governments in various parts of the country. The United Nations is strictly responsible for this state of affairs and should answer for the current situation in Afghanistan because it caused it by not transferring power to the mojahedin before the Army disbanded.

[ETTELA'AT] It appears that the mojahedin leaders cannot tolerate one another as heads of temporary governments. Do you think that if there were a neutral individual to head the government, the current problems of Afghanistan would be solved?

[Lowlanji] If the solving of problems implies eliminating political differences, this would not be logical or practical. This is because it is clear that there is no government without political opponents. The opposition also has advice and messages for a government that should be conveyed through the media not through rockets and missiles or bombing residential areas. If the situation is such that dialogue with the government should be through the language of missiles, then neutral individuals who do not have military backing will not be able to carry out their obligations of administering the country.

Thus, the main problems of the people of Afghanistan do not stem from political differences, but from the plethora of military centers and trenches with heavy weapons. As long as these heavy weapons are not collected, no government will be successful in Kabul. Therefore, prior to the establishment of an interim government, a neutral armed force should be set up. All the soldiers and officers should take an oath of neutrality, that is, they should sign a document stating that except in certain cases they will not intervene in the political struggles of the hierarchy. Only in such circumstances can one be optimistic that regardless of whether it is neutral or non-neutral, the government will be successful in fulfilling its obligations to a certain extent.

[ETTELA'AT] If an interim government under UN supervision comprised of neutral individuals and group members with international guarantees is set up, what in your opinion would be the outcome?

[Lowlanji] As I stated earlier, until all the factions are disarmed and regular national armed forces set up, no political decisions or agreements can be guaranteed unless they incorporate the pledges of the jehadi group leaders. The Jalalabad agreement was signed by the Afghan group leaders as well as by leaders of three Islamic countries, but the cease-fire was violated after a few days and the residents of Kabul were caught unawares in a killing spree.

Of course, I think that by signing the Jalalabad agreement the Islamic Republic of Iran sought to motivate the Afghans to maintain peace. Otherwise it is doubtful that the Islamic Republic of Iran would sign decisions made by an unreliable body before a general disarmament. [passage omitted]

The United Nations is well aware that while the political groups are armed, nothing can be effectively guaranteed. Therefore, if we perceive that the United Nations has

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guaranteed any resolution in Afghanistan, it is undoubtedly to pave the way for the entry of so-called peacekeeping forces into Afghanistan, not for the sake of establishing peace but in order to make Afghanistan a strategic base for NATO. This would mean that sooner or later, a government favored by the United States would be set up. This is an irrefutable and unbiased fact. It can be clearly seen that a sanguinary civil war and merciless massacre of the people after the victory has created conditions conducive to the attainment of U.S. objectives.

[ETTELA'AT] Recently, there were reports of sanguinary clashes between the HezbZe Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] and the Harakat-e Eslami [Islamic Movement]. How do you appraise the motives behind it?

[Lowlanji] We do not have sufficient information about the motives that triggered the war between the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami and the Harakat-e Eslami, but the outcome is the same as that of previous battles, that is, the decimation of the oppressed people in west Kabul. In addition, the price of this war is relatively greater than that of past wars. The two warring sides will pay the price in the long term. Unfortunately, war, fratricide, and the massacre of innocent people seems to have become a status symbol, a criterion of heroism, and a source of income in Kabul. However, the two sides will in time realize what a major and irredeemable error they have made.

It is expected that the 'ulema, the great scholars of the sides in this imbroglio, the eminent seminarians, will deliver a final ultimatum to those instigating the war—even if to exonerate themselves when they are judged by history—without leaning toward any particular group or political affiliation. They should prevent the proliferation of this human catastrophe by all means and save the downtrodden and deliberately deprived nation of Afghanistan. They should not permit a large, tyrannized Muslim society to be sacrificed for personal motives and political power games.

I am hopeful that the Islamic Republic of Iran—by utilizing its moral influence and all necessary resources to rein in the faith-consuming flames of animosity—will enter the fray. Even though bitter and sorrowful events have taken place, all our compassionate friends have been on our side and have participated in attempts to prevent them. However, they can preempt even worse events from occurring. Therefore it is imperative that a joint delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Supreme Supervisory Council, and leaders of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami and the Harakat-e Eslami go to the site, and after the necessary investigation into the causes of the clashes it should identify the initiator of the war.

Fighting Continues in Kabul, Baghlan, Konduz

LD0410165994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from Afghanistan say fighting between the rival forces in Kabul and in the provinces of Konduz and Baghlan still continues.

According to reports received from Kabul, the fighting intensified further at Kabul University and each warring side claims to have gained victories.

Rabbani's opposition says: In the course of widespread fighting, the regions of Ainbahar and Koh-e Qarabator in the district of Chahardara in northern Afghanistan have came under their control.

At the same time, the International Red Cross Committee announced in Kabul that in the last three weeks of fighting in Kabul, 1,700 people have been killed and 17,000 have been injured.

India

Minister Argues for Security Council Membership

BK0510090294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has formally staked its claim for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. Addressing the 184-member UN General Assembly yesterday, the commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, said given any criteria, India qualifies for it on the basis of its population, size of the economy, and its contribution to world peace. Seeking the expansion of the council, Mr. Mukherjee said the present composition reflects the power balance of the immediate post war period. Pointing out that the membership of the world body has increased many folds since then, Mr. Mukherjee stressed the necessity of expanding the Security Council to give its decisions greater legitimacy, model authority, and political effectiveness. He made out a strong case for reforming the methods of the Security Council to enhance transparency and inclusion of developing countries in the permanent member category.

Mr. Mukherjee, who is leading the Indian delegation, asked the international community to take immediate concerted action against terrorism. He called for an urgent negotiated convention to counter and eradicate the menace. Mr. Mukherjee expressed the government's decision to defeat the terrorist activities which he said are often supported from abroad. He said India is committed to upholding of human rights but it cannot accept the position that all human rights are the privilege of the terrorists.

U.S. Decision Not To Impose Trade Sanctions Hailed

BK0510060294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Oct 94

[Commentary by Himanshu Dutt]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United States's decision not to impose trade sanctions against India under Super 301 is a welcome development for better economic relations between the two largest democracies in the world. For India, the decision ensures smooth continuation of commercial relations with its largest trading partner. Trade sanctions against India would have upset Indo-U.S. business relations which have grown in recent years.

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The United States has been one of the largest foreign investors in the country and has lauded the economic reforms launched by the government three years back. Indo-American economic relations were further strengthened when the prime minister made a successful visit to Washington earlier this year. Against this background, it was unlikely that the American Government would have gone ahead and imposed sanctions against India by invoking Super 301. Also, many analysts feel that actions such as sanctions against Super 301 are out of step in the present realities of international trade. With the signing of the GATT accord in December last year, the signatories to the agreement have committed themselves to act multilaterally in matters involving trade. India has always maintained that any dispute arising in foreign trade should be resolved within the framework of the GATT accord and not by unilateral measures taken by any country. Washington had threatened to impose sanctions against India on the ground that it was not providing enough market access. The textile manufacturers in United States have been pressing for greater access to the Indian market. Although the American Government formally announced that it will not invoke Super 301 against India, It also alleged that India imposed too many restrictions on the import of textiles.

Washington is keen to continue negotiations to get a better market access. The fact, that the United States has decided not to impose sanctions against India will cheer businessmen in the country. A word of caution is, however, necessary. Despite a healthy trade between the two countries, Washington harbors protectionist sentiments and has taken a series of anti-dumping and countervailing duty investigations which have affected the export of Indian steel and chemical products. It has often threatened sanctions against India under Super 301. In 1992, it repealed the benefits under the Generalized System of Preferences for the entire range of chemical products. Also, changes in laws governing visas could affect India's software exports.

Health Official Says Plague Epidemic Declining

BK0410160594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The plague epidemic in Surat and other parts of the country is on the decline. The government today expressed the confidence that the country will be free of the disease by the middle of this month. The union health secretary, Mr. M.S. Dayal, told newsmen in New Delhi that 728 suspected patients have so far been discharged in Gujarat after treatment, including 318 in Surat. Five hundred and eighteen patients are undergoing treatment in various hospitals in the state.

In Delhi, the situation is fast improving. Thirty-four suspected cases were brought to the hospitals today. Out of the tests done in 347 cases, 44 have been found positive. The chief minister, Mr. Madan Lal Khurana, has announced the setting up of an apex body to advice measures for improving the hygienic conditions in the capital.

In Maharashtra, about 1,400 patients have so far been discharged as they tested negative. One hundred and nine cases have tested positive. No plague case has been reported in Bombay.

In West Bengal, out of 123 suspected cases, 99 have been discharged. Tests are being conducted on the remaining cases. There is no change in the situation in Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh and Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh where four plague patients each are undergoing treatment. In Karnataka, the condition of the two plague patients undergoing treatment is improving.

The health secretary said the director general of World Health Organization, Dr. Nakajima, is arriving in New Delhi on Friday to assess the situation.

Air Mauritius has decided to resume its flights to India from Thursday.

India has assured the Gulf countries that the plague situation is fully under control and urged them to restore normal air and sea links with this country. Two senior officials today briefed the health ministers of these countries about the steps taken by the government to tackle the situation. The ministers are presently attending a meeting of the Eastern Mediterranean Bureau of the World Health Organization in Bahrain. The officials told the meeting that India had implemented all the international health regulations after the outbreak of the disease.

Uttar Pradesh Expands Curfew

BK0410145094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Uttar Pradesh, curfew has been clamped in three more towns today. They are Gopeshwar, Karnprayag, and Ukhimath following fresh incidents of violence.

According to an official spokesman in Lucknow, the situation in the six towns where curfew was imposed yesterday continues to be tense, but under control. In Dehradun, 180 persons were arrested today for violation of curfew. Arrangements are being made for distribution of essential commodities in the curfew-bound areas. Police conducted flag march in Dehradun and Rishikesh as a precautionary measure.

Economic Minister Discusses Reform

BR0410125394 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 2 Oct 94 p 19

[Interview with Economic Minister Manmohan Singh by Luis Mazarrasa; place and date not given: "'Development Cannot Be Imported From Abroad'"—first paragraph is EL PAIS introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Manmohan Singh, a 61-year-old Sikh, an expert in finance, and a former bureaucrat, is the grand architect of the biggest economic reform that modern India has suffered through. His liberalization program, which the World Bank has called the world's biggest success, concentrates on eliminating the massive state intervention in the economy which successive Indian

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Governments have maintained since independence. In almost three years at the head of the Economy Ministry, Singh, known as The Doctor, has devalued the rupee—which he has made convertible in current accounts and for all capital transactions—liberalized foreign investment, eliminated export barriers, and taken the first steps toward fighting out-and-out protectionism. Under his guidance, India has gone from being the country of five-year plans and the country with the greatest amount of state planning outside the Communist bloc, to being a giant that is almost integrated into the world economy.

[Mazarrasa] Your government—and you in particular—is credited with undertaking the biggest economic reform in modern India. When this decision was made, the situation of your country was very serious, something attributed mainly to excessive state intervention in the economy. What are the broad outlines of your reform?

[Singh] It is a multifaceted process that primarily consists of restructuring our tax system, as well as foreign trade, and the balance of payments in order to strengthen our ability to service the foreign debt. We have also restructured industrial policy in order to encourage liberalization and create competitiveness, and at the same time we have reduced the state's role in industrial activity while opening up our economy to the rest of the world. All this is also leading us to stimulate foreign investment and to create "more payable" taxes. Lastly, the reform is aimed at liberalizing the financial system, the capital markets, and at exchanges in the banking sector, where the state presence still has to be reduced and a greater participation by the private sector has to be achieved.

[Mazarrasa] Why did India wait so long before undertaking this kind of reform if the causes of its economic stagnation were clear?

[Singh] In any democracy there is a feeling of inertia, but a crisis can force people's minds to focus on seeking out and making a decision that was already necessary, but which could not be applied because of the political climate. Many of the measures we are taking have actually been studied previously. What happened with the 1991 crisis was that we became convinced that either we would have to make drastic decisions or we would not be able to restore confidence in our economy. It was a "now or never" situation.

[Mazarrasa] At this time, virtually everyone—including your opponents—are praising your management. Are there objective reasons for thinking that this economic boom will continue in the next two or three years?

[Singh] Yes, I am very optimistic. In the past two years, we have achieved growth of 4 percent. For this fiscal year, we are expecting growth of at least 5 percent and I feel it is very possible that next year we will achieve growth of 7 percent. I think there are many indicators of this bonanza. Our balance of payments is supporting strong development. State intervention is gradually dropping. We have created a more favorable climate for domestic and foreign private investment. We have done this to such an extent that I think that in the years to come the Indian economy will be one of the fastest growing.

[Mazarrasa] The flow of foreign capital arriving in India in every year of the reform has exceeded the total that came in during the more than 40 years since independence. However, direct investment seems inadequate and much lower than the level achieved by neighboring booming countries, such as Malaysia, China, and Thailand. Has the reform schedule made any provisions to alleviate this situation?

[Singh] Our reform is only three years old. When we began, few people believed that it was an irreversible process. Today, I think that the majority is convinced that this is a road on which we cannot turn around. Last year, the total flow of capital derived from our gross domestic product, that contributed by our companies abroad, and foreign investment exceeded $5 billion. In the years to come, this amount will increase and therefore so will direct investment.

[Mazarrasa] The export of consumer goods is still a major obstacle to foreign producers, despite the fact that a partial liberalization plan was begun. Will total liberalization be achieved soon?

[Singh] Sooner or later India will have to liberalize the export of these goods. However, we cannot do so completely at this time without harming our small consumer goods industries. It is necessary to follow a number of steps in order to calibrate the reform correctly. I am convinced that India has to become integrated into the world economy, and one of the steps for doing so is to totally liberalize exports.

[Mazarrasa] The banking system has traditionally been the most closed system in India, with a virtually total public sector presence. Will there be a radical change in the short term in that sector with the ensuing full possibility for foreign banks to gain access to it?

[Singh] Foreign banking is already here. We have 140 foreign branch offices and this trend will soon be given further encouragement. For example, non-resident Indians have opened a bank here, the Hindus Bank, which is totally private. In addition, we have opened up public banking more to the private sector, to such an extent that next year there will be many private banks competing with the state-owned banks, and the state-owned banks will have to justify their existence by demonstrating their efficiency.

[Mazarrasa] What is India currently offering foreign investors?

[Singh] India is an enormous country with 900 million inhabitants, one fourth of whom are middle class and a vast potential market. Nevertheless, per capita income is very low, but it will undoubtedly rise. There are extremely good opportunities for foreign investors in India and great opportunities for joint ventures between Indian and foreign companies.

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[Mazarrasa] Is it possible to overcome the widespread corruption that is well established in many Indian institutions?

[Singh] There is no denying the existence of corruption in India. There are a number of reasons for this. The main reason is that there is too much control in government hands. When this happens there are individuals who are led into corruption because they have the power and the incentive to do it. Reducing this concentration of power as much as possible is the first step in the fight. The second step is liberalizing the economy, since the existence of too many taxes encourages tax evasion. It is also important to remove barriers to foreign trade.

[Mazarrasa] Which investments or exports from Spain would be most successful in your country at this time?

[Singh] Tourism is one of the main areas, because of the enormous cultural potential, along with beaches, natural parks, etc. Spain's extensive experience in this area would benefit us mutually. The exact same thing is happening in the fisheries sector, because we have great fishing potential and a not very competitive fleet. The possibilities of joint ventures with Spanish companies here are innumerable. Nor should we forget the textile and leather industries.

[Mazarrasa] You are coming to Madrid to take part in the 50th anniversary of the founding of the World Bank and IMF. How do you assess the policy followed by these institutions in this half century?

[Singh] I think that in general they have worked correctly, but I am not one of those who thinks that the work is over, because more effective methods must be found of consolidating development and prosperity around the world.

[Mazarrasa] At the same time, in Madrid there will also be an alternative forum protesting against these monetary policies, which are blamed for the rift in the average standard of living in the poorest countries, especially in Africa.

[Singh] Every development program has limitations, and there is no doubt that in some of these countries there has been a drop in economic growth since 1986, but this is due to many factors, some of which are internal.

For example, the civil wars in many parts of Africa and the failure of their governments to manage the economy have contributed to this situation. Determining how much blame should be placed on these organizations is difficult. I am not an expert on Africa, but my impression is that it is not right to blame everything on the IMF or World Bank. The crucial thing in achieving development is to maintain correct domestic policies, because development cannot be imported just from abroad, although help can come from outside.

Iran

Rafsanjani Attends 20th International Trade Fair

LD0110123094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] You heard in the news bulletin that the 20th Tehran International Trade Fair was opened in Tehran today in the presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

At the end of his inspection of the fair, the president took part in an interview with our correspondent, expressing satisfaction at the trend of the country's economic and industrial transformation.

As the first news report of this cast, I draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Your excellency the president, the 20th Tehran International Trade Fair opened today in your presence. Your excellency inspected various exhibition halls for a number of hours. Please tell us about the characteristics of this year's fair when compared with previous years?

[Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. This year I only managed to see a very small part of the fair. I visited an industries hall, a mines and metals hall, and I also saw one of the foreign halls. [passage omitted]

The only complaint that was repeatedly conveyed to me while I was touring the fair was the cash flow [naqdinegi] issue. Some of the factories' representatives were saying that if their cash flow increased they could produce more and expand the range of their products. I accept this and it is clear to me because we introduced a change in the value of foreign currency. The difference in the value of hard currency means that cash flow has increased by as much in rials for those places that spend hard currency. It has also resulted in high prices. Of course we have some limitations as we have to watch inflation. We do not like to inject money into society, that would increase inflation. It seems that we should attend more to the issue of cash flow for our production units, which we will attend, God willing.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Velayati Speaks of Rights of Muslims at ICO

LD0410102894 Tehran IRNA in English 1008 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, Oct 4, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Monday called on the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [Islamic Conference Organization, ICO] to seriously consider the situation of Muslim communities in Western countires where their most fundamental human rights were being violated.

Speaking before the Coordination Ministerial Meeting of OIC, Velayati commented that the protection of the rights

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of Muslim communities all around the world particularly Mulsim immigrants in Europe was an imporint area in which potentials of the organization could be explored.

He pointed out that under the OIC Charter, the organization aimed to strengthen "the struggle of all Muslim peoples for the safeguard of their dignity, independence and national rights."

Velayati stressed that several resolutions adopted by the summit and the ministerial conferences of the organization entitled "Islamic communites in non-OIC member states" to urge "member states to do their utmost in approaching the states where these Islamic communities live to make them acknowledge their right to full citizenship and grant them all their civil and religious rights and treat them in accordance with the principle of human rights."

"These countries should be made to understand that the islamic countries, as demonstrated during the world conference on human rights in Vienna and the recent Cairo conference, are not indifferent at the desecration of their noble religion and as such are determined to defend their values in the face of continued attempts to disregard and undermine them," he added.

The Iranian foreign minister also underlined that Iran was concerned about the suffering of Iraqi people due to sanctions and called on all parties to take every measure to speed up bringing this situation to an early end.

He described the pressures imposed on Libya as "unjustified" and welcomed the constructive attitude of Libyan Government, which had been manifested throughout the crisis and called on the other side to reciprocate the goodwill gestures.

On the situatiion in the occupied Palestine and the plight of its Mulsim people, Velayati remarked that the Zionist regime continued to commit acts of aggression against the people of Palestine, Syria and Lebanon which revealed that it did not believe in peace and followed its own agenda, that is to continue occupation and usurpation of Muslim lands.

He stressed: "In our view the recent agreements does not lead to the full realization of all rights of Palestinian people. The just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine includes the return of all Palestinian refugees to their homeland and the liberation of all occupied territories."

The foreign minister further criticized the Security Council for its failing to shoulder its responsibilities regarding the Serbian aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina and termed as "very saddening" the Security Council's decision to reward the Serbia for its so-called "cooperation" with the United Nations instead of punishing it for its crimes.

Referring to the Afghanistan developments and Iran's efforts to establish peace there, he noted that Iran believed that "dialogue among all Afghan factions in the form of proximity talks can be utilized to begin reconciliation and end war and fratricide in Afghanistan. All parties have shown interest in this proposal and we are prepared to assist the secretary-general in order to start these talks."

He also called on the OIC to follow up developments in Kashmir and Karabakh and said that the organization's efforts over the recent years had resulted in valuable achievements in international gatherings, drawing more attention of the international community to the just and right approach of the Mulsims to the current political and social issues.

He referred to the OIC statements on the massacre in al-Khalil mosque, the joint Islamic action to combat blasphemy against Islam particularly concerning the apostate Salman Rushdie, and on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina as the most important contributions of the organization in addressing the plight of Muslims all over the globe.

The Iranian foreign minister concluded by reiterating the necessity of coordination among Islamic states in the course of the current session of the General Assembly and the forthcoming world conferences in 1995.

Majles Speaker on Subsidies, U.S. Policy

LD0410143694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles, who is visiting Fars province, took part in a meeting of Shiraz University students. He answered questions put to him by students about the removal of subsidies for basic goods. He said: The Majles believes that the subsidies for basic goods such as cooking oil, lump sugar, [granulated] sugar, wheat, and rice should continue during the second Five Year Plan [started 21 March 1994].

Mr. Nateq-Nuri described the increase in the price of some basic goods such as cooking oil and lump sugar as short-lived, and said: With the provision of hard currency by the Central Bank and reaching the necessary agreements with foreign companies, the problem of high prices for cooking oil and lump sugar will be solved in the near future.

On the increase in the price of fuel, the Majlis speaker said: The gradual removal of subsidies for fuel and an increase in its price is necessary because we pay 1.7 billion toman in fuel subsidies each year and because fuel is being smuggled abroad and its consumption is high. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] During his tour of Fars province, the Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles took part in a meeting of the people of Lar today. He strongly criticized the United States for creating tension in the region and warned the governments who follow Washington's tension-creating policy in the region and again declared the Islamic Republic's readiness to hold talks with the UAE within the framework of previous agreements. [passage omitted]

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During Mr. Nateq-Nuri's visit to Lar, a 230-kilovolt electricity transmission network was inaugurated in the south of Fars province. Fars will now join the Bandar Abbas power station in providing electricity to the inhabitants of southern Fars and parts of Hormozgan province. The cities of Larestan and Lamerd have also joined the national grid. The cost of the project was 67,318 million rials.

[Announcer] During his tour of Lar, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles broke the ground for the construction of a control tower for the international airport in Larestan. The cost of the building is 400 million rials, which has been provided by the inhabitants of Larestan. Larestan International Airport will enjoy a special significance due to the high trade exchange and frequent travel from Larestan and southern Fars to the Persian Gulf littoral states. Lar is situated 390 km south of Shiraz.

Team To Visit Russia To Clarify Bilateral Ties

NC0410140394 Paris AFP in English 1027 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 4 (AFP)—Iran is to send a high-level delegation to Russia to clarify "ambiguous points" in bilateral ties, after Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced an end to arms sales to Tehran, a newspaper said here Tuesday.

IRAN NEWS, quoting reliable sources, said a top foreign ministry delegation would be sent in "the coming weeks."

Tehran, which has always advanced cautiously in relations with its powerful neighbor in the north, has so far refrained from any official reaction to Yeltsin's announcement last week.

The Iranian media have also been silent, except for the influential TEHRAN TIMES which criticised Yeltsin's remarks as "unfitting for a friendly country."

But Iranian leaders have voiced their dissatisfaction at the decision through diplomatic channels, according to Russian sources here.

Yeltsin, during a visit to Washington last week, said Russia would stop selling arms and other military hardware to Iran once a 1988 Soviet-era contract with Tehran runs out.

Moscow had come under US pressure to halt exports to the Islamic republic of arms, still considered to be a threat by Washington.

However, the English-language IRAN NEWS downplayed the importance of Yeltsin's comments, saying it was not clear whether they reflected "the final stance of the Russian government."

It also said purchasing arms from Russia was of "secondary importance" to Iran which had had "very reasonable offers of arms sales from Latin America, Europe and Asia."

Russia is believed to have earned about one billion dollars in sales of submarines and weaponry to Iran last year, a US official said last week.

However Iran, which is going through a financial crisis, has been late meeting some payments on equipment already purchased, according to Russian sources here.

Tehran owes around 600 million dollars in arrears to Russia for civil and military contracts, causing Moscow to become increasingly impatient at a time when it also needs financial resources, they said.

The sources did not rule out the possibility that Yeltsin's remarks could prompt Iran to speed up the payment of its debt to Russia.

A Russian diplomat, requesting anonymity, told AFP that he had "high hopes the problem can be solved quickly."

German Official Discusses Trade Volume

LD0410183394 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 4, IRNA—German Economy Ministry representative to the 20th Tehran International Trade Fair Gunter Scholz here Tuesday announced that Iran and Germay exchanged four billion marks worth goods this year.

Scholz in an interview with IRNA said that Iran's imports from his country was 4.1 billion marks last year, adding that the figure had reached 2.5 billion marks this year.

He added that Iran's exports to Germany also was 1.3 billion marks last year, adding that the figure is predicted to reach 1.5 billion marks this year.

The German official expressed hope that Iran would have more active presence in German markets in view of its high quality goods.

As for transfer of technology to Iran, Scholz said the best way to transfer technology is cooperation among companies.

Scholz expressed hope that Iran could have more active presence in international markets and increase its exports.

Irish Agriculture Minister on Expanding Cooperation

LD0410193794 Tehran IRNA in English 1902 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 4, IRNA—Minister of Construction Jihad Gholamreza Foruzesh here today in a meeting with Irish Minister for Agriculture and Food Joe Walsh, expressed his satisfaction over Tehran-Dublin expanding cooperation.

Foruzesh said that Iran and Ireland have prepared the grounds for further bilateral cooperation in the areas of training, marine transportation, veterinary medicine, forest protection and exploitation of natural resources.

Walsh expressed his satisfaction over the trade balance between Iran and his country and said that Dublin is ready to distribute Iranian goods in Irish and European markets and said that his country will prepare the necessary facilities for this propose. He also expressed his country's

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readiness for cooperation with Iran in the areas of forestry, improvement of the methods of production of various kinds of dairy products and horse breeding.

Referring to the multilateral economic cooperation between Iran and Ireland, Walsh called for a joint commission to discuss Tehran-Dublin economic ties.

BBC Reaction to Ban on Satellite Dishes Viewed

NC0110214294 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 24 Sep 94 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "The BBC and the Majles Stance on Satellites"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last Tuesday [20 September] the Islamic Majles approved an almost unanimous decision to ban the use of satellite equipment.

The British Government radio, the BBC, has displayed an extreme reaction to this decision in the past few days. In its initial reaction, in an interview with Mas'ud Behnud, it said: The approval of the plan to ban the use of satellite equipment by the Majles was not strange, but the fact that it was done by such a majority is strange!

The BBC added: Pressure from newspapers and various opposing factions, especially the newspapers affiliated with the majority faction consisting of religious scholars and clerics, seemed to have had an effect on the Majles' decision... [ellipses as published]

The BBC further stated: If there was not such a hue and cry, the issue would probably have been ignored and the ban on satellite antennae would never have taken effect. (footnote: BBC on 20 September)

In another program the next day, the BBC—which could barely contain its ire—stated: A large number of Iranians prefer to view songs and dances carried by the satellites!

The BBC expressed the hope that the Majles decision would not be a final one and in an interview with Ehsan Neraqi at UNESCO said: Even if we were to suppose that some of the programs transmitted by satellite are obscene, people get used to them after a while. What do you think the European people do!

Citing Neraqi, the BBC expressed regret at the Majles decision! (footnote: BBC on 21 September).

The BBC's reaction to the Majles' decision is very interesting and at the same time ridiculous!

The votes of the deputies represent the will of the people. The majority of the people are concerned and object to the adverse impact of the satellite programs and their effect on families. This objection manifested itself in the categorical decision of the Majles deputies. The BBC is simply astonished that such a majority could display this reaction.

Even though the BBC admitted indirectly that the majority of the people object to the satellite programs, one does not know where it discovered that the majority of Iranians prefer to watch the songs and dances on satellite television!

The BBC should know that "the songs and dances on satellite television" are the main reason for the opposition of the people to the satellite programs.

All our complaints against the satellite programs are due to this very repertoire of songs and dances. Those who have set the world on fire and are engaged in the plunder of the mines and reserves of the Third World and draw their swords against a nation every day do not have the right to celebrate such a system and dance and sing on the bodies of those killed!

The decadent European and American cultures do not have the right to destroy the lofty ethics, culture, and customs that are the legacy of prophets and mystics with these lewd programs. The Majles' approach to the satellite phenomenon is the most natural and sagacious one.

Citing Ehsan Neraqi, the BBC says: Even if we were to suppose that there are some risque pictures, after a while the people get used to it!

This is the most disgusting opinion that has so far been aired regarding the satellite programs, which is incidentally the reason the Westerners are so desensitized to this shamelessness!

Has Ehsan Neraqi forgotten that one of the main reasons for staging the revolution against the despotism of the shah and U.S. colonialism was this same ribaldry!

In conclusion, it is extremely unfortunate that the British Government's radio chose to propound and express regret at the Majles' decision to ban satellite equipment through the remarks of two Iranians, despite the fact that these two do not command any respect in the eyes of the people!

Hard Currency Transfer to Free Zones Banned

LD0410121194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the basis of a set of rules and regulations for monetary and banking activities in the free trade zones, from 2400 tonight, the transfer of hard currency to the free trade zones is banned. Also, the transfer of the rial is based on certain criteria that allow any traveler to transfer 300,000 rials.

The news was mentioned today by Mr. Morteza Alviri, a presidential adviser and secretary of the high council for free trade zones, in a seminar on investment opportunities in free trade zones. He added: Any kind of transaction, whether in rials or hard currency, is permitted from the free trade zones to other countries. [passage omitted]

Ministry Acts Against Unauthorized Currency Dealers

LD0110194594 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1900 GMT 1 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement published tonight, the Ministry of Interior announced that following repeated complaints regarding currency exchanges of counterfeit

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money by profiteering middlemen who are working illegally, all dear countrymen are advised to deal only with bank and authorized exchange bureaus. The illegal profiteers are told that they have until tomorrow, 2 October, to take action for receiving legal permits. Otherwise their activity will be prevented and their currency confiscated by the government.

In another statement, the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that for the benefit of the travellers leaving the country, steps have been taken to allow the leaving travellers to purchase their required currency within current regulations from authorized exchange bureaus across the country.

Support Expressed for Saudi 'Extremist Activists'

MM0310105094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Iranian circles have expressed sympathy and support for the extremist activists arrested recently in Saudi Arabia.

Some Iranian sources, well informed by virtue of their positions, have revealed that two men linked to the detained group in Saudi Arabia visited Tehran last February and participated in the annual conference of the revolutionary organizations backed by Iran. The names of the two men, who belong to anti-Saudi extremist groups, were not revealed.

The Iranian official media said at the time that a number of delegations from the "Gulf countries" attended the conference which marked the 15th anniversary of Khomeyni's return to Iran, but they did not identify these Gulf countries. The sources say that a high-level Sudanese delegation also attended the conference.

Iranian media had picked up the news of the arrests in Saudi Arabia from world news agencies during the week and the news was carried by government radio and television without comment.

A paper owned by Iranian Leader 'Ali Khamene'i, however, saw the arrests as a reflection of the reality of the "revolutionary ideas" which were introduced by Khomeyni and accepted by some in other countries. [passage omitted]

A statement said to have been issued by the 15 Khordan Foundation in Tehran last Wednesday said that the detainees in Saudi Arabia belonged to "a world revolutionary movement" which has "a strong presence" in Afghanistan, Sudan, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco." [passage omitted]

Deputy Oil Minister on Fuel Reserves for Winter

LD0410163294 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The deputy oil minister said: To provide the fuel required by our compatriots this winter, the amount of paraffin and diesel oil stored has been doubled. He said: At present, 1,700 million litres of paraffin and 2,000 million litres of diesel oil are stored in reservoirs.

The deputy oil minister for refinery affairs and distribution of oil by-products added: All the country's refineries are at present working at maximum capacity and reservoirs in various provinces are in better condition than last year.

New Satellite Receivers Operational in Lordegan

LD0210173494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Two ground satellite receivers became operational in Khanmirza and Pelard regions, near Lordegan, this morning. Over 60,000 inhabitants of these regions can now receive the Second Television channel programs. The purchase price and installation cost of these receivers was 20,000 dollars. The five-Watt Khanmirza receiver and the 10-Watt Pelard receiver can be tuned on channels seven and 12 in each region respectively.

Commerce Minister Notes Rise in Nonoil Exports

LD0110201794 Tehran IRNA in English 2000 GMT 1 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, 1 Oct (IRNA)—Non-oil exports earned Iran dlrs [dollars] 3.86 billion during 1993-94, an increase of 35 per cent, compared to the year before, Commerce Minister Yahya ol-Eshaq said here Saturday during the inauguration ceremonies of the 20th Tehran international trade fair.

He added that over the past five years non-oil exports have accounted for an average of 25 per cent of the total exports.

The last three years which saw the Central Asian republics join the community of the world's independent nations, has brought into sharper focus the significance of Iran, said the minister, pointing out that the country is acting as a bridge for the transit of goods to and from the landlocked Central Asian republics.

The Islamic Republic of Iran gives priority to its ties with Muslim neighbours and is confident that the trade potential of the of the countries will boost regional economy and pave the way for establishment of an Islamic common market, he remarked.

He added that after the end of the Iraqi imposed war (1980-88) the situation has become favourable for Iranian producers and industrialists and has paved the ground for economic cooperation with all world counries, the regional states in particular.

Ol-Eshaq referred to a variety of Iranian manufactured goods on show at the exhibition and said these can be compared to similar foreign made goods.

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Pakistan

Political 'Battle' Seen Leading to 'Anarchy'

BK3009131094 Hong Kong FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW in English 6 Oct 94 p 20

[By Ahmed Rashid in Lahore]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] "We are in a state of war," opposition leader Nawaz Sharif declared on September 20, the day for which he had called a general strike. It certainly looked it to the hapless citizens of Lahore as Sharif, a former prime minister, drove around the city, his bodyguards firing AK47s into the air. For Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (PML), the strike was a political success, marked by shoot-outs and the arrest of hundreds of PML supporters. Most were detained as they tried to force shopkeepers to pull down their shutters, even as the police tried to pry them open.

The chaos looks set to continue. Determined to maintain the momentum of the general strike, Sharif announced that the opposition would observe September 29 as another day of protest. "Matters can no longer be resolved in the National Assembly. They will now be put before the people's assembly," he asserted.

Clearly, the political battle between Sharif and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is moving ever farther from the realm of parliamentary debate and onto the streets. Pakistan is once more on the brink of political anarchy, and once again there are rumblings that only the army can save it.

For Bhutto, the strike took the gloss off some major international successes. These included the raising of US$1 billion abroad through the sale of Pakistan Telecom shares and the signing by American investors of US$4 billion in deals with local industrialists. To many Pakistanis, however, these accomplishments only reinforce an impression that their prime minister is far removed from the economic difficulties that assail the man in the street.

"The government was unprepared for the degree of public frustration which the success of the strike showed," said a leader of Bhutto's own Pakistan People's Party (PPP). Judged by the criteria of the IMF, Bhutto has performed well on the macroeconomic front. But she has had to pay a stiff price in terms of a recession and political turmoil. Her inability to strike a balance between these conflicting demands remains the core problem for her government.

Indeed, the strike was less a demonstration of support for Sharif than a measure of public despair at the country's economic woes. Though Bhutto has cut the budget deficit, maintained an austerity drive and privatised public utilities, she has done little to kick-start the economy, which stalled after a six-month-long political crisis last year.

The government says inflation in August stood at 11.7 percent, but economist Hafeez Pasha, head of the Centre of Applied Economics, says it is running at "more than 20 percent." He adds that there is "a lot of frustration because there is no economic activity and the government is doing nothing about it." He says prices of many basic foodstuffs have doubled in Karachi. Meanwhile, floods in Sind have destroyed at least 10 percent of the cotton crop.

The taxman's harassment of industrialists thought to be close to Sharif has not reflected well on Bhutto, either. The government has announced it will bring cases of tax evasion amounting to Rs [rupees] 1.7 billion (US$54 million) against Sharif's industrial conglomerate, Ittefaq. State-owned banks have stopped lending to Ittefaq and other firms linked to PML members.

The courts are also looking into charges against Sharif of influence-peddling and illegal allotment of land when he was prime minister. Sharif's response: "We have been pushed to the wall and will now take all measures ensuring the cleansing of the nation from this government."

Sharif's hasty decision to call a strike, however, was made partly to deflect the fallout from a report in THE WASHINGTON POST. This quoted him as saying that when he was prime minister, he had stopped the then army chief, Gen. Mirza Aslam Beg, from organising a military-intelligence operation to smuggle heroin to the West. The interview proved immensely embarrassing, not least because Sharif is desperately trying to get the army to dismiss Bhutto. Denying the interview ever took place, he is suing the newspaper for US$100 million. THE POST has stood by its story.

Also trying to get the military to take a tougher line is a group of rightwing politicians and retired generals opposed to both Bhutto and Sharif. The main coordinator of this effort is Pir Pagara, who leads a faction of the PML opposed to Sharif. He and his supporters want a military takeover, followed by the installation for a three- year term of an army-backed government that would bar both Sharif and Bhutto from politics.

"Unless there is a major change in the policies of the PPP and the PML, the army will have to step in to save the country," says a member of this group, former Federal Minister Zahid Sarfaraz.

Meanwhile, yet another group in Parliament, led by MP Mir Zafarullah Jamali, is trying to persuade the military to back a vote of no-confidence against Bhutto. He hopes to sideline both Bhutto and Sharif, thereby preventing an actual military takeover.

The army chief, Gen. Abdul Waheed, has refused to comment on these speculations. He has so far declined to meet politicians and has ordered his generals to do the same. Nevertheless, the army is reported to be deeply concerned about the present state of the country. Of immediate concern to the military are the growing crises in the provinces of Sindh and Balochistan, which Bhutto has tended to ignore.

Five to 10 people a day are being killed in Karachi in shoot-outs between rival groups. In Balochistan, bloody warfare between rival tribal chiefs left nine dead and 20 wounded in the provincial capital, Quetta, in August. The PML-led coalition government of Chief Minister Nawab

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Zulfiqar Magsi is refusing to accept federal-government directives or cooperate on key economic issues such as oil exploration by foreign companies.

As prime minister, Bhutto has the option of imposing central rule in Balochistan. But if she does so, violence in the province may intensify. Once again, Pakistan is being pulled into a dangerous vortex of its politicians' making.

Nawaz Sharif Rules Out Talks With Government

BK0410092594 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has claimed that district-level recent campaign is not because of lust for power, rather it is for the survival of the country. Addressing a news conference in Lahore yesterday, he said he was not creating any confrontation but only making the people aware of the real fact. He was of the view that the present government has never taken opposition into confidence while taking decisions on serious issues. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif ruled out any possibility of negotiations with the government.

Emphasizes Army's Neutrality

BK0410114294 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 4 Oct 94 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore: If my government with a two-thirds majority in the parliament could be removed in two and a half years, the present less powerful PPP rulers should be ousted within a year, says Leader of Opposition Nawaz Sharif.

To a question at a press conference at the Muslim League House on Monday Mian Nawaz said: "This time the government will be removed in another way. New examples will be set." He noted that the Army was not with any political party and belonged to the people of Pakistan.

"It is the duty of every Pakistani to protect the Army and it is Nawaz Sharif's commitment that the Army will not be allowed to become a victim of the PPP's conspiracies, We will not let them black mail the armed forces," he added.

Claiming that merely the people's support will be enough, he said Mujeebur Rehman became the prime minister of Bangladesh only with the power of the people.

Asked if he would accept a fresh invitation for talks from the government, Mian Nawaz said: "Let us move in the direction we are going."

He said the government has "pushed us to the wall despite our best efforts for reconciliation". Nawaz warned the government that the opposition would not be intimidated by her bullying tactics.

"This is an opposition which is more powerful than the government in its vote bank and almost equal in parliamentary strength," he added and claimed that the government was in fact ridiculing a portion of the population larger than her own vote bank.

He said it was time the government accepted the opposition's demands to allow democratic traditions to be revived. He claimed that the PPP had not fulfilled provisions of its own manifesto under which the opposition leader was to be consulted in the appointments of Chief Justices, Governors and Army Chief, "These are the contradictions in their policies and the Prime Minister will be given the same treatment she is meting out to the opposition," he added.

Chairing a meeting of the PML-N Lahore metropolitan here Monday, Nawaz Sharif warned PML-N workers and office-bearers not to be complacent. He was especially hard on "those interested in publicity".

He also gave instructions to party workers on preparations for the wheel-jam strike he has called on October 11.

Later, addressing party workers at the Muslim League House, he told the party's metropolitan organisation that he would boycott office-bearers of the wards where preparations for the strike were found to be unsatisfactory.

Nawaz said he would himself inspect the preparations for the wheel-jam strike in Lahore on October 8. Mian Nawaz asked party workers to ensure the implementation of the strategy chalked out in the meeting at least at ward-level and if possible at the levels of primary units.

Ali Addresses UN on Kashmir Settlement

BK0510111594 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 5 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At the United Nations, Pakistan has urged the international community to urgently address the Kashmir dispute to ameliorate the sufferings of the Kashmiri people and open a credible diplomatic process to achieve its just and peaceful solution. Addressing the United Nations General Assembly yesterday, the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, said Kashmir is the key to unlock the problems of South Asia. He said Kashmir could not be brushed aside any longer. The solution of the Kashmir dispute would enhance prospects of conventional arms control and nonproliferation in South Asia. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said Pakistan is prepared for talks with India on Kashmir. It was Pakistan which initiated the foreign secretary-level talks, but after six rounds of talks it was evident that India's ostensible desire for negotiations with Pakistan carried little credibility while it continued killings in the occupied Kashmir.

The foreign minister said a final settlement of the Kashmir dispute would have to be based on the freely expressed wishes of the Kashmiri people. In a paper transmitted to India last February, Pakistan had outlined the possible modalities for ascertaining the wishes of the Kashmiri people. The foreign minister said India's attempt to organize another fraudulent elections in occupied Kashmir would prove a failure. Such unilateral actions could not be considered the basis for the final solution of the Kashmir issue. This could only be done through a UN-supervised plebiscite prescribed for ascertaining the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

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Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said Pakistan welcomed the UN secretary general's offer to facilitate a search for a lasting solution to the Kashmir issue and hoped that India would also accept it. He referred to the use of indiscriminate violence by India against innocent people in occupied Kashmir and said it must be condemned. India is guilty of (?daily) and systematic acts of terrorism against the Kashmiris.

Strongly criticizing India's stand on the question of terrorism, he said to resist a foreign invader engaged in murder, torture, disrespect to women, and arson is not terrorism but an exercise of self-defense. The heroic struggle of the Kashmiri people could not be dismissed as terrorism. It is a valiant freedom movement which deserves the full support of the international community. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said that Indian allegations of Pakistan's support to the freedom fighters were designed to extenuate the resilience of the Kashmiri freedom movement, to erode international sympathy and support of the Kashmiris, and more clearly to create a justification for a new aggression against Pakistan. Pakistan, he said, had extended only moral, political, and diplomatic support to the Kashmiris and had refrained from extending military help to them.

The Pakistan foreign minister suggested to enlarge the UN observers group along the border between Pakistan and India to monitor India's violations of the cease-fire which have escalated recently. Emphasizing the need for restoring the credibility and effectiveness of the United Nations, the foreign minister said the role of the Security Council on Bosnia-Herzegovina was far from satisfactory. He said Pakistan and other Islamic countries were shocked at the Security Council's recent decision to ease sanctions against Belgrade, which is the root cause of aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Islamabad To Host Tajikistan Peace Talks

BK0410120294 Karachi DAWN in English 4 Oct 94 p 1

[Report by Anjum Niaz]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Oct 3: Pakistan will host the next UN-mediated intra-Tajik peace talks between the Tajik government and the opposition. The talks will be held in Islamabad from October 17 to 23, informed sources said here on Monday.

"We are expecting confirmation from New York anytime," an official at the Foreign Office told Dawn, adding that the most significant of the six-day talks will be the signing of a permanent cease-fire between the Tajik government and the opposition locked in a two-year civil war which has killed thousands and rendered hundreds of thousands homeless in the poorest of the ex-Soviet republics.

Participating in the negotiations will be the UN special envoy, Ramiro-Piriz Ballon, the Tajik deputy parliament speaker, Abdolmajid Dostiyev, and the leader of the Islamic opposition in Tajikistan, Abdullah Nuri. The observers will comprise Pakistan, Iran, Russia, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, who is returning from New York on October 10 after leading his delegation to the 49th session of UN General Assembly, will be the chairman of the conference.

Informed sources said the agenda during the six-day talks will cover discussions on modalities of holding elections in Tajikistan, framing of a new constitution, return of the war refugees, withdrawal of weapons and withdrawal of Russian troops from Tajikistan.

It may be recalled that during the 10-day negotiations last June in Tehran, the Tajik government and the opposition failed to agree on a ceasefire. The first round of negotiations was held in Moscow last April in a bid to end hostilities which started when a coalition of Islamic and democratic forces was ousted from power in Dushanbe in December 1992 and replaced by a Russian backed neo-communist regime.

Arms Talks With France Expected 'Soon'

BK0410131094 Karachi DAWN in English 4 Oct 94 p 16

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Oct 3: Defence Minister Aftab Shaaban Miranj said on Monday that Pakistan will negotiate with France for the purchase of Mirage 2000 fighter planes and mine hunters during the forthcoming visit of French Chairman Joint Chiefs of the Staff Committee.

Talking informally with reporters at a diplomatic reception here on Monday, the Defence Minister said Pakistan was weighing different options for the purchase of military aircraft including F-16s from the United States and Mirage 2000 from France.

When told how Pakistan could get F-16s from the United States in the presence of Pressler Amendment, which bans supply of any military or economic aid to Pakistan unless the US President certifies that Islamabad does not possess the nuclear capability, the Defence Minister said even then some other way out could be find for this purpose.

Aftab Shaaban Mirani said Lockheed, the manufacturers of F-16 aircraft, were also exerting its pressure on the US Congress to find a way out for selling these planes to Pakistan which has already made a payment of over 600 million dollars.

He was of the opinion that any further delay in the shipment of these planes to Pakistan would not be in the interest of the United States itself. He said with the passage of time these war planes would become obsolete. He was optimistic that Washington would definitely find a way to supply these planes to Pakistan.

The Defence Minister said the aviation experts were also looking for other options but no final decision has yet been made.

He told reporters that he would visit South Africa next month to witness an exhibition about military hardware.

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He said he would be looking for some modern equipment for the Pakistan navy during this visit.

Scientific Cooperation Accord Signed With Tunisia

BK0410072094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Under an agreement signed in Islamabad, Pakistan and Tunisia are to cooperate in fields of science and technology. The cooperation includes exchange of visits of scientists, undertaking joint research projects, and holding seminars and conferences. The visiting Tunisian minister for scientific research and the secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, signed the agreement.

Trade Route Extension Discussed With PRC Official

BK0310155194 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan and China have held in-depth discussions on increasing bilateral trade and extending the trade route to the Central Asian states. Pakistani Federal Interior Minister Major General, retired, Nasirullah Khan Babar and Chinese Communications Minister (Li Doje Chang) [title and name as heard] represented their respective countries at the talks. The interior minister thanked China for its willingness to provide Pakistan the trade route to Central Asian states via Kashgar. He said the trade links through land route will benefit the economies of the two countries. The federal interior minister conveyed messages of goodwill and best wishes from the president and prime minister to the government and the people of China.

The Chinese minister said that trade activities can be further expanded with the conclusion of the transit agreement next month. He said it is gratifying that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is taking initiatives to establish trade links between Pakistan and Central Asia. He lauded the role played by late Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in the construction of the Karakoram Highway.

'Priority' Urged for Trade With Central Asia

BK0310103894 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 3 Oct 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Economic Cooperation with CAR"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) who led a 37-member trade delegation to the Central Asian Republics (CAR) of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan disclosed in a press conference that the delegation had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for joint ventures in textile, glassware, ready-made garments, bicycle manufacturing, light engineering, insurance, banking, furnishing fabrics and leather goods during its visit to these two states. He pointed out that the Western countries and India had sent their businessmen to the CAR for exploring the possibilities of joint ventures after these states became independent three years ago. Pakistan business community had, however, arrived there very late. The six Muslim republics which became independent after the breakup of USSR are currently endeavouring to put their economies on sound footing. Rich in natural resources but isolated from the outside world for decades under the communist rule, CAR have not been able to exploit their economic potential to better the lot of their peoples, but now offer an ideal situation for economic cooperation.

Uzbekistan with a population of 20 million, comprising 70 percent Muslims, is endowed with plenty of natural resources, agricultural wealth and industrial potential. Its agricultural sector covers intensive farming with artificial irrigation producing cotton and rice. It produced 67 percent of the entire cotton crop in USSR. With 100 per cent literacy rate and excellent infrastructure of roads and railways system, Uzbekistan can make an effective breakthrough in industrialisation. Kazakhstan with 17 million population out of which 50 per cent are Muslims is regarded as "Central Asia's biggest economic hope." Besides being extremely rich in natural resources, it is noted for its livestock, particularly sheep from which excellent quality wool is obtained. Pak-Kazakhstan joint ministerial commission has already been established for providing institutional arrangements to review the existing economic ties between the two countries and to explore further possibilities in this respect. The visit of LCCI delegation to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan as a follow-up of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry delegation's earlier visit was expected to produce some positive results for joint ventures which it has successfully negotiated in the form of signing the MOU. Hopefully this would pave the way for expanding economic cooperation between Pakistan and CAR. What is, however, needed is that this task should be given the priority it deserves.

Six Trainer Aircraft Given to Syria, 3 to Oman

BK0410150294 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has gifted six Mashshaq aircraft to Syria and three to Oman. The gift package was announced by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

To mark the completion of the gift package, Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, Kamra, is holding a ceremony tomorrow. These aircraft will be formally handed over shortly to the Syrian and the Omani forces in their respective countries by the defense minister, Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani, on behalf of the prime minister.

Sri Lanka

Minister Says Talks With LTTE Open, Not Secret

BK3009133094 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamer has told reporters that the upcoming talks

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between the government and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] will be open and transparent. He said that the secret closed-door approach was out.

Responding to a series of questions at a news briefing in New York, Mr. Kadirgamer said that the talks scheduled from the 14th to the 16th of next month would be a completely open process. We shall keep the public informed at all points as to what was going on. There will be a radical departure from the kind of negotiations that took place under the previous administration. The foreign minister said that there was one very good practical reason for this, the people of the South must be kept informed of what was going on. Otherwise, there would be no hope at all of any solutions (sticking). Asked about the LTTE's long standing demand for a separate state, Mr. Kadirgamer was emphatic that it was a (nonstarter). There is no question of a separate, sovereign independent state. He added that the discussions would be primarily centered on the degree of autonomy for the North and the East involving a maximum possible devolution of power from the center.

Foreign Minister Kadirgamer is in New York attending the 49th session of the UN General Assembly.

Security Forces Call Off Planned Offensive

BK0310130794 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Security forces called off a planned offensive against separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas in northern Sri Lanka in the light of upcoming peace talks, Defense Secretary General Hamilton Wanasinghe said yesterday. Troops suspended a major operation against the rebels, Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam—LTTE—in view of the talks between the government and the guerrillas scheduled for the 13th and 14th of October, Wanasinghe said. However, he said, defense-oriented small scale operations would continue in the island's northern and eastern regions where the LTTE has stepped up attacks, killing some 15 soldiers and an estimated 25 sailors in the past two weeks. Defense sources said the military was on a verge of tightening their stronghold on the LTTE-dominated northern Jaffna Peninsula when they were ordered to move back. Troops have been drawn from the island's east for the operation.

Journalists, who visited northern Sri Lanka two weeks ago, noticed the build up of the LTTE as well as security forces in the peninsula, the heartland of Tamil Tigers' (?air) and guerrilla activity.

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